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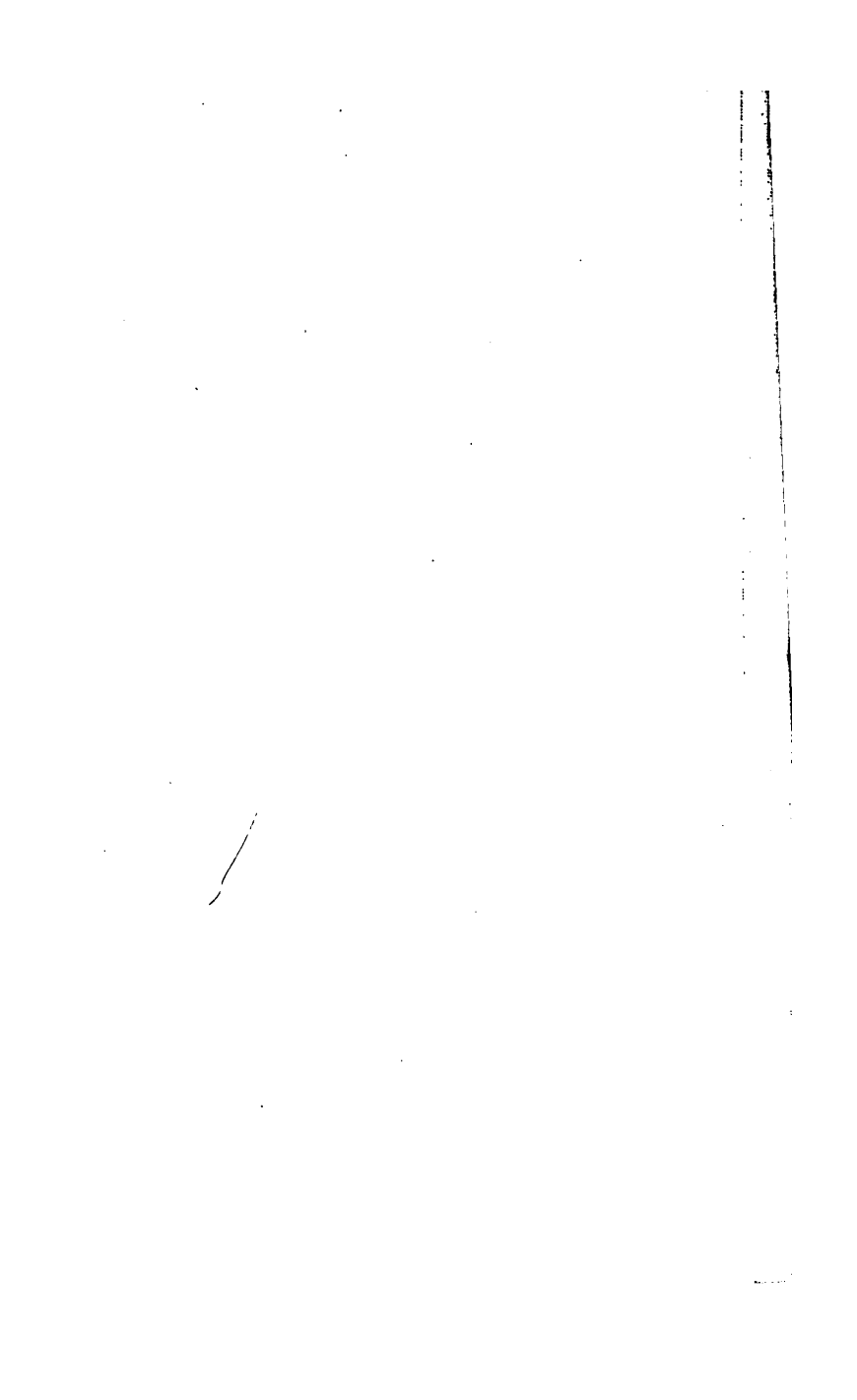
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AN
Historical Compend:
CONTAINING
A BRIEF SURVEY
OF THE
GREAT LINE OF HISTORY
FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT
DAY;
TOGETHER WITH
A GENERAL VIEW
OF THE
PRESENT STATE OF THE WORLD,
WITH RESPECT TO CIVILIZATION, RELIGION, AND
GOVERNMENT;
AND
A BRIEF DISSERTATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTOR-
ICAL KNOWLEDGE.
: : : : :
IN TWO VOLUMES.

: : : : :
Vol. II. [5 - 10]

BY SAMUEL WHELPLEY, A. M.
Principal of the Morris Academy.

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TO THE READER.

IN the preceding volume, we have attempted to sketch the great line of history, through the ancient nations. A similar attempt with regard to the modern, and on the same scale, however small it may appear, would be impracticable, without extending the work far beyond its intended limit. The reader has already been apprised that a methodical abridgement, even in the former part of the work, was not intended....much less will it be in the subsequent.

As we approach our own times, the subject matter of history becomes so copious, that its very outline would fill volumes; and its skeleton could not be accurately drawn but in a work of magnitude.

In passing through a field so wide and diversified, we shall be able only to suggest some of the principal topics of historical observation. It will be like gliding lightly and swiftly over the numberless waves of the ocean, and touching only some of their highest tops.* Yet our selection of topics has not been without regard to the pleasure and profit of the reader. It is feared that the rapidity and general nature of the narration, kept up for so long a time, will chill and disgust the mind. But we apprehend less danger from this source, than from a strictly chronological form, which would exhibit a much greater number of facts, but without combination.

In our choice of objects to present to the experienced reader, we have had continual reference to the power of association, and have endeavored to present such as will be most likely to bring to remembrance groups of ideas and circumstances, which were once fresh, but are now fading in the mind.

* "*Atque rotis summas levibus perlabitur undas.*"

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF ARTS
AND ARCHITECTURE

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HISTORICAL COMPEND.

CHAPTER I.

BRIEF HISTORICAL VIEW OF EUROPE, FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE NINTH TO THAT OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY, CONTAINING A PERIOD OF 700 YEARS.

THE history of Europe, from the 9th to the 16th century, presents the following important particulars, viz. The decay of the feudal system—the Crusades—the revival of commerce, followed by that of the liberal arts and sciences—the organization and establishment of several European powers—the origin, rise, and progress of the Turks; and, blended with the whole, a series of bloody and despolating wars, the offspring of ambition and depravity.

During the period now before us, we shall, in this and the following chapters, only take notice of such leading traits of character and such events as concerned Europe in general.

The feudal system gave a direction to the spirit of freedom, prevalent among the descendants of the conquerors of Rome, with which the ancients were never

acquainted. This was fully displayed in the institutions of chivalry and knight errantry. The general object of those institutions appears to have been the promotion and defence of integrity, honor, virtue, innocence, and merit in general. They often, indeed, awakened too keen a sense of injury, and thirst for revenge, and of course terminated in blood: but they certainly led the way to that refinement of sensibility which is the chief ornament of civilization. To those institutions must undoubtedly be ascribed the merit of raising the female sex to that rank which they ought to hold, as rational beings and members of society; and of securing to them that treatment—that protection and respect which are due to their softness, their delicacy, and their superior sensibility.

The spirit of chivalry carried men to all lengths in defence of their own honor, or of that of the lady whose protection they had avowed. They would run all hazards, dangers, and difficulties—encounter all hardships, or face death in every form.

Those principles and passions, when ameliorated by the lapse of ages—when restrained by the influence of enlightened morality and salutary laws, form some of the noblest traits in the human character. And it is pleasing to look back into those barbarous times and see the seeds of order and improvement, even among the Goths and Vandals, which should one day spring up and far transcend the refinements of Greece and Rome. The conquerors of Rome were generally and justly style barbarians; but they were, in many essential respects, less barbarous than the Romans whom

they conquered. They had more justice, integrity, and more of every manly virtue. They were far less depraved in their morals, and possessed minds at least capable of improvement.

Another custom which was the genuine growth of the feudal system, and which obtained an extensive influence through Europe, was the trial by duel—the most unreasonable and extraordinary practice which perhaps ever obtained among men, under the form of justice and legality.

The decision of causes by duel became so credible and so common, that even actions of debt were decided by it. All possible disputes which required the intervention of law were settled in open court, by single combat. The person who failed was considered as having lost his case by an act that was providential and divine. The evils and calamities of this practice were very great. In those times quarrels and controversies were frequent, and litigations incessant; and the whole world, even in time of peace, was overspread with slaughter, mourning, and distress. Those capricious trials were, at every step, liable to take a turn, which strongly marks the licentious freedom of those times; for even the judge on the bench was liable to be challenged for his sentence, or an advocate or evidence at the bar, for his advice or testimony. It was no uncommon thing for the judge to be challenged on account of his decision, the advocate for his counsel, the witness for his testimony, and the friends of one party or the other for their countenance given on the occasion. But a case far more common

than this, was, that very often, previous to the day of trial, the plaintiff or defendant, or the evidences of the judge were assassinated. Those were times of cruelty, of darkness, and misery. There is great reason of gratitude to that all-powerful, overruling providence which determined that mankind should see happier days.

The revival of commerce was one of the natural consequences resulting from the spirit of liberty and enterprize prevalent in the feudal system. The ancient nations generally regarded every species of traffic as attaching to itself a certain kind of ignominy and degradation unworthy of nobility. But that reproach was wholly wiped away in the revival of commerce, and it was thought not unworthy of the patronage and attention of lords and princes.

Venice, Genoa, Pisa, and several other of the Italian cities having obtained certain privileges and exemptions from feudal customs, led the way in European commerce. They soon rose to a degree of wealth and independence which gave them an influence in all the great concerns of Europe. Venice was the first, the most powerful and permanent republic which rose after the fall of the Roman empire; and, next to Great-Britain, is the most surprising proof which any age affords of the power of commerce.

When Maximin, the Roman emperor, besieged the ancient city of Aquileia, the inhabitants, perceiving that the tyrant would carry the city by storm, found means to make their escape in the night, and fled to the marshy grounds which lie at the head of the Adriatic

golph. Those grounds are said to be accessible only by one causeway or pass. Here those unfortunate but hardy people settled on a cluster of little islands, and on flats where the land and water disputed for empire. But the Aquileians stepped in, and wresting the territory from both, built wharves, and dikes, and bridges; and at length, with incredible industry and almost unknown to the world, they raised a noble city, which may be regarded among the cities of modern Europe as the first-born from chaos and darkness. Enriched by commerce, and ennobled by a sudden and surprising revival of taste, it soon became equally splendid and powerful. It merited to have given law to Europe, which, for a while, it had well nigh done. But if it did not govern Europe, it certainly did for her a much more honorable and illustrious task. It saved her from the horrid fangs of Turkish power; and, in so doing, saved her from a second age of darkness....perhaps from irretrievable ruin.

The power of the Venetians by sea was such as to be an ~~overmatch~~ for the Turks, till other powers arose in Europe who could cope with them by land. But the commerce of the Italian states filled all the ports of Europe with the richest commodities, and served to awaken a general spirit of enterprize, which had slumbered for many centuries.

The empire of Charlemagne, although it survived him but a short time, strengthened and edified the French and German monarchies. Spain, at this time, contained several petty kingdoms; and some of the Italian republics in the ninth and tenth centuries ac-

quired permanence and a regular form of government. Little had still occurred to break the force or loosen the foundations of the feudal system. It stood in its strength, and must forever have remained an effectual bar to the improvement and civilization of Europe; but wild fanaticism, and extravagant superstition at length effected, by the most extraordinary means, what never could have been looked for in a regular course of probable events. An event took place which shook the minds of men from their established foundations....tore up from the bottom their deepest prejudices....awakened them from the slumber of ignorance and the dreams of delusion, and presented before them illustrious motives and models of action.

CHAPTER II.

THE SAME CONTINUED....THE CREUSADES.

AT the end of the tenth century, a rumor prevailed through Europe that the Son of God was about to make his personal advent to this world, in order to establish an universal empire, the seat of which was to be at Jerusalem. It occurred, therefore, that it was a duty, the performance of which would attach illustrious merit, to rescue the holy land from the hands of infidels, in order to be in readiness for that grand event. It was proposed that the chris-

tians of Europe should march in a body sufficient to crush the Mahometan powers of Asia; and it was inculcated and believed that, under the sacred banners of the cross, they should bear down all opposition, or, if any fell in battle, that their cause would be a certain passport to the regions of bliss.

Preaching heralds were suddenly dispersed through Europe on this important mission. Some of them went clad in sackcloth, with their heads and feet bare.* They flew with incredible speed from kingdom to kingdom, promising to each soldier of the cross at least the eternal blessing of heaven; and threatening such as remained inactive with the endless wrath of Deity.

Their success was beyond calculation. The most powerful princes enlisted under the banners of the cross. The flame spread and continued to burn from the shores of the Baltic to the straits of Gibraltar; and from the banks of the Danube to the bay of Biscay. All causes were swallowed up in one; and men of all professions, of all ages, descriptions, and nations, consoled under the honorable title of *SOLDIERS OF CHRIST*, and *champions of the cross*. In all places the martial trumpet was heard, and warlike preparations were seen. Immense swarms of people thronged from all quarters, to places of general rendezvous, whence, in still larger bodies, they rolled like mighty torrents into Asia. Never were the nations of Europe agitated by so general a passion; nor did ever a public passion equal this for strength or duration;

* Peter the Hermit, and others.

since it governed Europe so entirely, that to make, to preserve, or to recover acquisitions in Judea and its neighborhood, was the grand and favorite object for two centuries.

The reader may judge of the importance of the enterprise, when he is told that, after two centuries were elapsed, and upwards of two millions of lives lost, and incalculable sums expended, the christians lost all footing in Judea, which has ever since remained under the power of the Turks. This was probably among the wildest, most vain, and extravagant enterprises ever undertaken by man. I shall only add the sentiment of an elegant historian, that it is matter of lasting regret, that the Crusades, being the only enterprise in which the powers of Europe ever generally engaged, should remain to all posterity an unexampled monument of human folly.

But however vain and extravagant the Crusades were, they were productive of lasting good to mankind. They changed the character and the manners of Europe. They, in the first place, drew off, and, in a measure, exhausted those fierce and fiery spirits which never can be at rest. They gave full scope to the ardor of thousands of knights and chevaliers; so that their flaming and inordinate courage found other employ than to waste and extinguish itself in the blood of honest and peaceable citizens.

The general union of all Europe in one common cause, although a wild religious phrenzy was at the bottom of it, prevented many wars...rushed many commotions, and caused numberless private animosi-

ties to be forgotten : the inhabitants of different countries became acquainted with each other, and especially, when they met in the remote regions of Asia, they looked upon each other as brethren engaged in one grand cause, where life, honor, and glory were all at stake. The Crusades may, in fact, be regarded as the commencement of that intercourse among the people of Europe, which has been ever since increasing; and which cannot fail not only to assimilate but to polish their manners.

The Venetian fleets were greatly concerned in transporting the armies and the provisions of the Crusaders. The latter, therefore, had an opportunity of beholding and admiring the improvement, civility, and politeness, as well as the convenience, the affluence, the power, and prosperity which result from commerce. They were equally astonished and inflamed with the idea. They transmitted accounts of the glory of Italy back to the countries whence they came, and inspired their countrymen with a spirit of emulation.

Many of their armies passed through Constantinople, the only great and important city, as already stated, which escaped the ravages of the northern and eastern invaders, and descended, unimpaired, through the dark ages. An earl of Flanders had the good fortune and address to obtain the government of Constantinople, which, for several descents, remained in his family. This will account for the fact that Flanders and the adjacent countries led the way in the revival of letters. Constantinople, it is probable, con-

tained the most valuable and precious remains of antiquity which had been collected thither by the great Constantine and his successors. The enterprize of the Crusaders spread over Europe whatever information they gained in their travels; and as Constantinople was their place of general rendezvous, the light, refinement, and science which were there found, were, in the course of two centuries, during which the Crusades lasted, diffused through Europe.

In fine, the Crusades gave a general shock to the public mind, which forever shook off the tyranny of many barbarous customs, and broke the long and deadly slumbers of ignorance, whose narcotic influence on men's minds is always in proportion to its nature and extent. By promoting national and social intercourse, they tended powerfully to melt away the prejudices and assimilate the minds of men. As they had an union of object, they would naturally impress the mind with a sense of the power, practicability, and good policy of combinations and extensive alliances. As they passed through countries far more cultivated, more enterprising, and more opulent than their own, they must draw comparisons to their own expence; and must naturally wish to imitate those people whose wisdom and industry had secured to them prosperity and power. By all these means the eyes of mankind are opened—an extensive portion of the nations of the earth received, at the same time, important lessons of instruction—the genius of Europe was roused and stood ready to explore the avenues of knowledge, and to trace the intricate paths which lead to more extensive fields of light.

CHAPTER III.

THE SAME CONTINUED....THE OTTOMAN TURK.

ABOUT the beginning of the 13th century, a new power arose, which first made head in Asia, and at length became the terror of all Europe. We have spoken particularly, in the former part of this Compend, of the irruptions of the Scythians from the interior parts of Asia. A warlike tribe, sprung from this prolific fountain, had for some time infested the countries of western Asia, and at length were established in Bithynia. Othoman appeared at their head, and laid the foundation of a dynasty of most warlike and powerful princes. He flourished about the year 1229. In no part of the annals of history do we find a braver, more politic, or fortunate race of monarchs than that of Othoman, or Othman. They seldom failed to unite bravery with prudence, or good fortune with enterprize. In Asia and Africa their conquests were coextensive with the empire of Rome; nor would they have fallen short in Europe but for the intervention of unexpected causes.

Othoman was succeeded by his son Orchanes....he by Ansurath I. and he by Bajazet I. Amurath led a great army over the Hellespont, and invaded Europe. After making various conquests, he fixed the seat of his empire at Adrianople. Amurath established the Janizaries—perhaps the most powerful and efficient corps....the most perfectly trained to the art

of war, and the ablest and most to be relied on in the day of battle, of any ever known. In the history of the Turks, it is remarkable that, for several centuries, the succeeding monarch outdid his predecessor. The son generally excelled the father in energy, policy, grandeur of schemes, and felicity of execution. This remark will, in a good measure, apply till the reign of *Solyman the magnificent*, who raised the Turkish empire to its zenith of glory. It was not so with the emperors of Rome.

Bajazet, the son of Amurath, was a very great general. He was impetuous as a thunderbolt, yet of cool and thoughtful courage. He possessed the craft and policy of negotiation together with the powers of compulsion. The Turkish armies in his time possessed both numbers and discipline. Bajazet generally commanded from three to five hundred thousand men; but the flower of his army was 50,000 Janissaries. With such a force no power in Europe could have resisted him; and he had matured every plan for extinguishing the Greek empire in the capture of Constantinople. But providence had raised up a power before which this haughty conqueror must fall, in the midst of his pride, prosperity, and glory.

Tamerlane was, by inheritance, prince of a Tartar clan. But nature had endowed him with a mind capable of forming and executing the grandest enterprises. He early showed that superiority in council and in action, which raised him to the high station of cham of the Usbeck Tartars. His capital was Samarkhand. He soon, by the wisdom and energy of his ad-

ministrators, drew to his standard innumerable Tartar tribes, and saw himself at the head of the empire of Ghenghis Khan;—and inflamed by the glory of that great conqueror, he invaded and subdued India, extending his empire to the eastern ocean. From the conquest of India he had just returned, enriched with spoils of immense value, when ambassadors arrived at his court from the emperor of Constantinople, whose capital was now besieged; and from various other christian princes already expelled from their dominions. These ambassadors implored the aid of Tamerlane against the haughty Turk, who threatened the conquest of all Europe.

The mighty Tartar immediately dispatched away a herald to Bajazet, desiring to know the reasons of his conduct, and offering to mediate between him and the Greek emperor. Bajazet, whom no power could intimidate, returned a haughty and indignant answer; upon which Tamerlane marched against him, it is commonly said, at the head of a million of men. All Europe stood paralyzed for a moment at the expected shock; and dreading every thing if the Turks should prevail. They came to a general battle on the plains of Pharsalia, the very same place where, many ages before, Pompey had decided the fate of the Roman empire, in a great battle with Mithridates, king of Pontus. Perhaps a greater battle has not been fought in modern times. Each army was drawn up in the most consummate manner, according to the tactics of the times. Fifty thousand Janizaries, in a solid column, occupied the centre of the Turkish army, at the head of which Bajazet fought on foot.

Tamerlane, in the morning, drew up the flower of his immense force, under the command of his ablest officers, and directed them to commence the action, whilst he looked on as a spectator, and stood ready to send necessary reinforcements from time to time; and he had previously announced to Bajazet that he might expect to meet *him* in battle when he should see the green flag displayed.

The first shock was tremendous, and the ensuing conflict truly dreadful. The Tartar lords reminded their soldiers of the glory of Genghis Khan, and of the conquest of India.

“ Long-time in even scale the battle hung.”

At length, however, the wings of the Turkish army began to give way, borne down by the almost infinite force of the Tartar cavalry and infantry, who fought with astonishing rage and fury. Tamerlane, perceiving the moment of advantage, dispatched ten thousand horse, and as many foot, to sustain the waning ardor of the battle.

The Turkish army were generally defeated, dispersed, or cut to pieces, except the Janizaries, who, animated by the presence and example of their gallant monarch, seemed to defy all mortal prowess; they stood firm like a rock, which, unmoved, sustains the surging billows. This formidable force, composed of troops of known superiority, and led by the Turkish sultan, who fought with prodigious valor, still held the fortune of the field doubtful, when Tamerlane was seen advancing under the green flag, at the head of 50,000 chosen cavalry, the splendid guards of the con-

queror of the east. At that moment the battle was renewed, and the Janizaries, now nearly surrounded, fought with amazing bravery around the person of their king. But they were overwhelmed as with an irresistible torrent, and Bajazet, contrary to his own determination, was taken alive, with many of his guards.

It is related by some historians that Tamerlane demanded of Bajazet, when brought before him, what he would have done with him, provided fortune had declared in his favor. The captive monarch sternly and haughtily replied, "I would have put you in an iron cage, and carried you for a show all over my kingdom." "The same," said Tamerlane, "shall be done to yourself;"—and was accordingly done without delay.

Tamerlane, having rescued the Greek emperor, and freed Europe from immediate danger, by humbling the Turkish power, returned into Asia; and subduing Syria and Palestine, proceeded to Egypt and Persia, and returned, after a period of eight years, to Samarchand, through the middle countries of Asia. He is represented as a prince of great moderation, self-command, and of a mild and amiable temper. He was adored and almost deified by his subjects. His reign was long and prosperous, and his dominions are thought to have been nearly as extensive as those of Russia, comprehending a considerable portion of the known world. The emperor of Hindostan claims direct descent from Tamerlane, whose lineal descendants also led the Tartars in the conquest of China,

and, of consequence, now possess the thrones of China and India, and govern a third part of the human species.

The Tartars interfered no more with the Ottoman Turks, but left them gradually to recover from so great a blow. Nor were the christian princes able to avail themselves of this favorable opportunity to complete the ruin of so formidable a foe. Solyman I. the son and successor of Bajazet, derived courage and fortitude from his father's misfortune; and collecting the shattered remains of his forces, soon appeared at the head of an army which was able to keep the field. So severe a check of the Turks, however, protracted the capture of Constantinople for near a century. Solyman was succeeded by Mahomet I....he by Amurath II....and he by Mahomet the great. This prince took Constantinople in the year 1453, which was followed by the subjugation of all Greece. The Turks, under the succeeding reigns, became the most formidable power in Europe, till, in the reign of Solyman the magnificent, A. D. 1526, after subduing Hungary, and carrying off 200,000 prisoners, that great prince advanced into Austria, and laid siege to Vienna. But on the approach of Charles V. at the head of a great army, he raised the siege, and retired into his own dominions, doubtless remembering the fate of Bajazet. This, however, carries us beyond the period which was to be the subject of the present chapter.

As the brevity of this Compend will not allow us to enter again particularly on the Turkish history, before we dismiss that article it will be proper to state a

few things which do not properly belong to this chapter. There was probably never a race of monarchs of equal abilities for war with the Ottoman race, as far as to the reign of Solyman the magnificent. They were certainly great in the art of governing a turbulent and licentious race of men, as well as in the field of battle. And what is matter of the highest admiration, every succeeding reign seemed to eclipse the former; and the deeds of the father were forgotten in the superior exploits of the son. Mahomet the great, who took Constantinople, is universally allowed to have been a most politic and accomplished prince, as well as the greatest commander of his time. But the greatest of the Turkish emperors was Solyman the magnificent. In him were combined the first qualities of the soldier and statesman. He was fierce and furious as Bajazet....artful and cruel as Mahomet the great; besides which, he displayed a grandeur and dignity of mind which no Turk ever did before or after him. In his reign the Turkish empire gained its utmost height of power and glory; and though even his successors cannot generally be styled weak princes, yet the empire has experienced an uniform and progressive decline; and, it has been thought, would one day fall before the power of Russia.

Notwithstanding the great abilities of the Turkish emperors, it must be confessed that their characters were extremely unlovely, even to a man. All their good qualities were deeply shaded with cruelty and stained with blood. They commonly ascended the throne through the blood of their nearest relations;

and we may apply to them the strong metaphor applied to Simeon and Levi by their father Jacob:—*instruments of cruelty are in their habitation.*

The word *Turk*, it is said, signifies a *wanderer*, or *banished man*. Some writers have conjectured that the Turks are descendants of the Jews, or of the ten tribes of Israel. From whatever source they sprung, they erected a mighty fabric of power and dominion; and could the course of empire be represented by a line drawn through states and kingdoms, it would pass through Turkey, since there was certainly a time when the Turks were the most powerful nation in Europe, and, if we except China, perhaps the most powerful in the world:

CHAPTER IV.

THE SAME CONTINUED....IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES
AND IMPROVEMENTS.

AS the Crusades effected a general change of character in Europe, they, in fact, laid the foundation for, and, in reality, introduced the dawn of that grand event, commonly called *the revival of letters*. The Crusades had, in some measure, loosened the fetters of the feudal system, and diffused a spirit of enterprise through Europe, when commerce, which had long been limited to Italy, began to move northward, along the shores of the continent; and Ghent and Bruges, and the towns which afterwards formed

the body of the celebrated Hanseatic league, began to grow famous in Europe.

Towards the close of the 13th century, the Crusades had ceased, and all the christian acquisitions in Asia had fallen into the hands of the Turks. The wheels of commerce had just begun to move, and numberless enterprises and improvements were yet in a nascent state, when a discovery was made of the highest importance to the commercial and literary world. The difficulty and danger of voyages at sea had, from the earliest ages, operated as a powerful impediment to navigation. It frequently happened that a long continued obscuration of the heavenly bodies, in stormy seasons, was attended with most dreadful consequences to whole fleets, which were driven on shore, without any possible means of foreseeing or avoiding the danger. In the year 1300 the magnetic power to give polarity to metallic bodies was discovered to be of importance in navigation, and a compass was constructed, which, at all times, would instantly refer the pilot to any point or course he wished to know.

Upon this discovery, innumerable difficulties attending navigation vanished, and the fearless mariner traversed the main oceans, under a surer guide than a transient view of the sun or stars. The discovery of the mariner's compass was attended with vast consequences to mankind. It opened innumerable sources of communication, intelligence, and improvement, and was a grand epoch to all commercial nations. It, in short, gave a new face to the old world, and brought a new world to light.

If the mariner's compass formed a new and grand era in navigation, an invention took place in the following century, A. D. 1441, of still greater importance in the literary world, and of more extensive influence in the revival of letters, viz. the art of printing. Before this wonderful invention, books were scarce, and bore an exorbitant price. They could only be multiplied by the slow and painful operation of copying one after another; and poor and laboring people could neither purchase nor transcribe them. But printing multiplied books beyond calculation, and reduced their price in the same proportion; so that the world is now full of books; and paper, on which is printed the most useful and elegant productions of genius, costs but a little more than blank paper. By these means, useful learning began to be generally diffused through Europe.

In connection with the first mode of printing, if we consider the valuable improvement of the Stereotype, in which all the letters are correctly formed on the face of one solid plate, and there remain unalterable, we cannot but be filled with admiration, and, I think, must give the invention an honor second to none but that of alphabetic writing.

In the midst of the gradually increasing light of science, a few men, in various parts of Europe, seem to have been able to tear off, at once, the palpable veil of darkness from mens' minds, and to consume, in a moment, the mighty masses of wood, hay, and stubble which ignorance and superstition had been heaping upon science for a thousand years. The

names of Erasmus, and Grotius, and Puffendorf merit the highest honor in the illustrious list of the fathers of literature. And, in this period, Christopher Columbus, a native of Genoa, planned and executed the grandest enterprise ever undertaken by man. From his knowledge of the figure of the globe, he conjectured there must be a balancing continent to operate as a counterpoise to the old one.

For several years Columbus petitioned the courts of Europe in vain. At length he was furnished with a contemptible squadron of ships, by the court of Spain, and commissioned to go and seek for the new world in the western ocean. Braving the dangers of an unknown sea, and the mutinies of his more boisterous and tempestuous sailors, he performed the adventurous voyage, and discovered a continent. The gratitude of Spain rewarded his services with chains and a dungeon; and mankind have mended the matter, by calling a quarter of the globe, which he discovered, after Americus, a Florentine pilot, about as much entitled to that honor as Barnfield Carew, king of the gypsies, or Tangrolipix, the Turkish chieftain.

We have now given the reader a brief sketch of the causes which raised the nations of Europe into a state of improvement and civilization, after the reign of darkness and barbarity for so many ages. It now only remains that we consider their progress under the more auspicious influence of science, morality, and religion.

CHAPTER V.

BRIEF HISTORICAL VIEW OF THE NATIONS OF EUROPE, FROM THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT DAY.

GERMANY.

DURING a considerable part of the 16th century, Europe was governed by monarchs whose uncommon abilities enabled them to improve the science of government. Charles V. Henry VIII. Francis I. and Solyman the magnificent were then actors in the great drama, of which all Europe was the stage; and each succeeding year held up new scenes to the politician, historian, and philosopher.

The posterity of Charlemagne held the throne of Germany for an hundred years, when they were rejected by the princes of the empire, and Conrad, duke of Franconia, was elevated to the imperial dignity.— Since that time the monarchy has been elective. Various families enjoyed the dignity, and the empire was constantly engaged in wars with France, with the northern powers of Europe, with the Pope, or with the Turks. During the reign of Charles V. the German empire seemed to be at its utmost point of elevation, and was able to preserve a lofty and menacing attitude towards the neighboring powers; so that even the greatest of all the Turkish monarchs was willing to retire at the approach of Charles V. rather than to endure a conflict with that powerful prince.

Perhaps no nation, for the space of twenty centuries, ever produced more good soldiers, or underwent more hard fighting than the Germans. And although the imperial dignity of Germany has been regarded as the first in Europe, yet the essential defects interwoven in the frame and constitution of the Germanic body have rendered it weak, and liable to decay and dissolution. Since the reign of Charles V. its importance among the belligerent powers of Europe has, for the most part, experienced a gradual decline.

A vacancy in the imperial throne is supplied by an electoral college, consisting of nine electors, viz. the Archbishop of Mentz, the Archbishop of Triers, the Archbishop of Cologne, the Elector of Bohemia, the Elector of Saxony, the Elector of Brandenburg, the Elector of Palatine, and the Elector of Hanover.— But we can say little more of the Germanic body, in this place, than that it consists of about 300 petty princes, who are almost independent in their own dominions. Many of those princes are proud, poor, and oppressive; and their subjects are servile, stupid, and submissive. The German empire is a vast, unwieldy body, more kept together by the pressure of external causes, than by any internal principle of union.

Germany has produced vast numbers of learned and ingenious men. In useful discoveries and inventions, their plodding and apparently heavy genius has perhaps excelled that of every nation in the world. But it is ardently to be wished that the Germans had a better government, and more virtue. It is, alas! too observable, that essential differences in these important

respects have long been undermining their tottering fabric, and have at last brought them to the brink of ruin.

SPAIN.

Of the history of Spain very little notice has been taken in any part of this Compend. When the Roman empire fell in pieces, the Spaniards were left to struggle with their own vices and depravity: and a hard struggle it was. Neither its history nor geography are very well known, even to the present day. The Gothic and Saracen invasions both essentially affected Spain. But the affairs of Spain were very little connected with the affairs of Europe in general, till a little before the reign of Charles V. But that powerful monarch, inheriting Spain in the right of his mother, and Germany in that of his grandfather, long meditated the ambitious project of universal empire. But providence had seated on the thrones of the other European powers, princes capable of penetrating and baffling all his designs.

Charles V. after having for many years involved all Europe in war, finding his ambition like to fail of its ultimate object, abdicated his dominions to his son Philip II. who succeeded him in the government of Spain, and the low countries. Philip was a gloomy bigot, more fit for a mendicant than a legislator, or for a monk than a monarch. But Philip entered on his public career with greater resources than any monarch of modern times. To render his reign illustrious, therefore, by some grand exploit, he determined on the project of conquering Great Britain, a project which often originates on the continent

To this measure he was impelled by two motives—first, that he might establish his own power and fame as a conqueror—and, secondly, that, in the name of the holy church, he might take vengeance on an apostate, heretical, and reprobate nation, who, since the time of Henry VIII. had rebelled against the See of Rome.

Philip, determined on this important enterprise, made the most active and powerful exertions. The ports of Europe, from the mouth of the Elbe to the Straits of Gibraltar, resounded with naval preparations: and at length a fleet was put to sea, pompously styled *the invincible armada*, of size almost sufficient to shade the British channel. This armada carried not only a great army thought sufficient to carry off England by handfuls, and all kinds of military stores, but a multitude of priests, holy fathers, confessors, and inquisitors, together with a court of inquisition complete, with all sorts of engines and instruments of torture belonging to that hellish tribunal. With these they intended to enter upon the conversion of such of the English people as should escape the sword. This was humorously described by Hogarth :

“ The zealous priests, with righteous hopes,

“ Prepare their axes, wheels, and ropes,

“ To bend the stiff-neck'd sinner :

“ But should they sink in coming over,

“ Th' Old Nick may fish 'twixt France and Dover,

“ And catch a glorious dinner.”

The king of Spain, as the duke of Coventry bluntly told queen Elizabeth, had *got the wrong sow by the ear*. That illustrious queen found means to ward off the impending danger, and with an almost bloodless vic-

tory on her part, saw the "invincible" armada, in the course of a few days, utterly destroyed. As the armada approached, they were met by the English fleet, commanded by Admiral Lord Howard and Sir Francis Drake ; and the Spanish ships, to the amount of nearly one hundred sail, were burnt, sunk, or taken : the remnant were dispersed and lost in a tempest ; and a few of them attempting to make their escape round the north of Scotland, were picked up, one by one, or wrecked on the shoals of the Orkney or Hebride islands.

Excepting this celebrated expedition, Philip II. did little during his inglorious reign, but murder and torment the protestants in the low countries, till those provinces revolted from him, erected the standard of liberty, and, after a long and bloody war, gained their freedom and independence, which they maintained with dignity and honor. For nearly a century, they disputed the empire of the sea with Britain. But they no longer exist as a free people. They are forever swallowed up in the vortex of the French revolution.

Whatever shadow of liberty existed in Spain, was exterminated by Charles V. and Philip II. And their successors, though among the feeblest of princes, reigned and tyrannized at pleasure. When, by the policy of Lewis XIV. the crown of Spain was transferred to the house of Bourbon, it served rather to diminish than to increase the importance of the Spanish monarchy. Since France has become a *republic*, under the mild administration of Napoleon, Spain

scarcely dares assume the style or attitude of independence, but is submissively waiting to receive the fraternal embrace, which shall forever unite her to the *great nation*.

The geographer will perceive Portugal on the map of Europe ; and the historian will find that it was once of some consequence as an independent state : its present insignificance, however, and its general dependance on its more powerful neighbors, renders it not worth our while to notice its history in this very cursory survey of nations.

The reader will indulge us in a few reflections on the history of Spain, before we quit that article. It is allowed by all geographers that Spain possesses a most delightful climate and productive soil. " No nation," says Guthrie, " owes so much to nature, and so little to industry and art, for their subsistence, as Spain." They have scarce any winter. Their summers are long and delightful. Their lands produce, and almost spontaneously, all the substantials, and we may add, all the luxuries of life. Nature seems to have designed it as one of the most charming countries in the world. It is of great extent. It is surrounded by the noblest oceans and seas : it abounds with excellent harbors, and possesses every natural advantage, both internal and external, which a nation could wish.

But what does Spain contain ? what are its inhabitants, its government, and its character ? The population of Spain is thin. Its inhabitants, if we may rely on the testimony of travellers, are a poor, lazy,

idle, dirty, ignorant race of almost semi-savages. Their government, though despotic, is weak, and their name and character, as a nation, are contemptible.

One essential cause of all this, we may discover in the gold and silver drawn from the mines of Mexico and Peru. By an abundance of those precious metals, they were aggrandized, corrupted, inebriated, and undone. When the Spaniards conquered Mexico and Peru, and it was discovered that the bowels of the earth poured forth such inexhaustible streams of wealth, they thought no object worthy of their pursuit but gold and silver. They pursued no other object, and soon became dependant on their neighbors for every article of commerce. The gold and silver of Spain rewarded and enriched the treasures of every industrious nation in Europe, and left the Spaniards poor, proud, and dependant.

By the same means, the Spanish colonies in South America were ruined. In imitation of their mother country, they despised every pursuit but that of digging up the shining ore. They despised agriculture—they neglected commerce—they disregarded every art and every science but that of getting the precious metals. And what are they, even at this day? They are Spaniards, and Indians, and mongrels. They may revolt from Spain a thousand times, yet if they do not revolt from her character and conduct, and from their own, it will do them no good. Miranda may revolutionize them; yet, if they are not made a laborious, industrious, agricultural, com-

mercial people, they will be only revoluted from bad to worse ;—it will avail them nothing.

How different from their conduct was that of the British colonies, now the United States ! They had no mines of silver and gold. They had before them the boundless forests of an uncultivated continent, and beneath their feet a productive soil. But what can resist persevering industry ! The forests melted away ; the lands were cultivated ; the people became numerous, prosperous, and powerful, and, in little more than one century, the country became the most flourishing and happy of any in the universe.

Spain has had the advantage of very few men of uncommon learning or genius. The revival of literature was the least beneficial to her of any nation in Europe. She can boast, indeed, of a Tostatus, said to be the most voluminous writer, in theology, that ever wrote ; but his writings, it is also said, are remarkable for nothing but their bulk....and are shown as a prodigy, consisting, if I mistake not, of above fifty volumes in folio. Crushed beneath the double tyranny of kings and priests, the arts and sciences could never flourish in Spain. There the gloomy reign of superstition has run its full length, and, without any check, has displayed all its horrors. As to the people of Spain, it is of little consequence how soon they change masters. Their condition cannot well be worse, nor, indeed, can it well be made better.

CHAPTER VI.

THE SAME CONTINUED....FRANCE.

TO every Englishman, and to every American, the history of France, next to that of England, is, by far, the most important of any European history. The French, for many ages, have been a brave, polite, and scientific people; and the power of France, its central situation and profound policy, have given it, since the times of Charlemagne, and especially since the reign of Francis I. extensive connection with all the principal concerns of Europe.

For the long period between the ninth and sixteenth centuries, the fortunes of France, like those of the rest of Europe, were fluctuating and unsteady. At each return of prosperity, however, they rose higher on the general scale, and gained a more commanding situation. In the first part of the 15th century, Henry V. of England conquered France—received, in Paris, the fealty of the French nobility, and the crown of France seemed apparently confirmed to him and his posterity. But Henry dying in the 34th year of his age, the valor of the celebrated maid of Orleans restored the drooping affairs of France, settled the crown firmly on the head of Charles VII. and within ten years after France was a British province, she was again independent....more powerful than she had ever been....and was nearly able to have conquered Britain, then governed by Henry VI. the

feeblest and most miserable of all the English monarchs.

In virtue of that conquest, the kings of England have ever since pompously styled themselves kings of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland.

Francis I. though one of the most accomplished princes of his time, spent a long reign in planning schemes of ambition, which proved abortive...in war generally unsuccessful, and in artful and tedious negotiations, in which he was a match for any of his contemporaries. Disappointed in his hopes of being elected emperor of Germany, his whole life was a scene of rivalry with Charles V. the successful candidate for that high dignity. The slow and sullen temper of Charles...his cool and profound thought...his firm and even courage always gave him the advantage, of Francis, when in projecting there was danger of the undue influence of passion, or when in action there was danger of temerity.

In the course of their contentions, which were perpetually embittered by personal animosity, and which could only end with life, Francis unfortunately became Charles' prisoner. An advantage so great and decided as this, would forever have ruined almost any prince but Francis. In the true spirit and character of a Frenchman, Francis bore this calamity with as equal a mind as most men bear prosperity. He soon gained his freedom, in spite of the wiles of his ensnaring conqueror. By an address, which few monarchs ever possessed but himself, he wound his tortuous course out of a labyrinth of difficulties with-

out Ariadne to assist him, and found himself able once more to look his powerful rival in the face.

It is an uncommon case, that Francis, notwithstanding his numerous misfortunes, and the failure of most of his favorite schemes, at his death, left his kingdom far more powerful, prosperous, and respectable than he found it. It was his lot to contend with very potent enemies ; but Francis was a most accomplished prince. Such was the benevolence, the amiableness, the urbanity of his mind and character, that his courtiers loved him as a brother, and his subjects, in general, revered and respected him as a father. His more powerful rivals merited far less of their subjects, and enjoyed their affections far less than he did. It is the remark of an excellent historian that the reputation and fame of Francis have risen in proportion as those who came after him had opportunity to perceive the permanent benefits his administration conferred upon his people.

It will be impossible for us to speak distinctly of the kings of France. It being the design of this brief survey merely to convey to the young reader a general idea of the rise, progress, and character of nations. There is one event, however, in the succeeding reign, which renders it proper to call up the successor of Francis to view.

Francis I. was succeeded by his son Henry II. who was a prince not unworthy of the character of his illustrious father. His wars with Germany were generally more successful than those of his predecessor, whose hostile temper towards that neighbor-

ing power he had largely imbibed. This prince took Calais from the English; since which time they have had no footing in France. He was killed at a tournament by Count Montgomery, A.D. 1559.

The history of France, from this period till the reign of Lewis XIV. commonly called the *Augustan age* of France, opens an ardent and interesting scene of policy, chicanery, the caprice of fortune, cruelty, bravery, and some virtue. Several great families and illustrious characters rose into public view. The houses of Guise, Condé, and Bourbon, became celebrated through Europe; and by their intrigues and conspiracies, influenced not only the French government, and shook the throne, but governed the politics of Europe. The protestant religion had made great progress in France, and being espoused by many very powerful men, persecutions terminated in civil wars, and in some of the most horrid scenes of blood and cruelty recorded in history. The horrors of the massacre of St. Bartholomew's day, in 1572, exceeds all the powers of description. Thirty thousand persons perished in one night in Paris and other parts of France, among whom fell the famous admiral Coligni. This was during the minority of the bloody Charles IX.

The protestants were led by the prince of Condé, and the catholics by the duke of Guise, two of the most celebrated personages, as well as able commanders of their time. Rivers of blood were shed, and all the resources of a great and numerous people were exhausted in various struggles, while it still seemed doubtful whether the scale would turn in favor of

protestantism or of Rome. Murders, assassinations, massacres, and plots of every kind filled every corner of France with terror; the blackest atrocities incriminated the whole nation with guilt, and rendered it "a land of blood." The German princes, the Pope, the kings of Spain and England were active, by their emissaries, in this scene of horror, and abetted each party, as they were led by interest or inclination.

In the midst of these commotions the celebrated Henry IV. ascended the throne of France. He gained that lofty eminence by making his way through numberless impediments. Among many expedients, he resorted to one which the politician may justify, but the impartial narrator of truth cannot mention but with disapprobation. He abjured the protestant, and embraced the catholic religion, as the only steps which could advance him to the throne. This was regarded as a pious fraud, since it is generally believed that he never altered his sentiments concerning religion, and that he still determined, as soon as opportunity should present, to favor and establish the protestant cause. But providence seems to have determined that that unhappy country, so deeply polluted by the blood of innocence, should never be purged but by the blood of the guilty.*

As of the illustrious Henry V. of England, so of Henry IV. of France, we can only conjecture what would have been the result of a long reign, by the brilliant exploits which he performed in a very short

* Rev. XV. 5th, 6th.

eat—by the amazing energy which he manifested—by the comprehensive views....by the amiableness, the elevation, the grandeur of mind he displayed in so short a career.

Henry applied himself with wonderful address to the affairs of government, and especially to ameliorate the condition of his subjects. In these important and benevolent pursuits he was aided by the celebrated duke of Sully, the ablest statesman of his time. In 1598, he published the famous edict of Nantz, which gave free liberty of conscience to the protestants, and allowed them in the public exercise of their religion. He encouraged, and was, in fact, the founder of the silk manufactories in France.

This illustrious prince was assassinated in his chariot in the streets of Paris, in 1610, by a wretched enthusiast, whose name should never have polluted the page of history.

The son and successor of Henry IV. was Lewis XIII. He, by the aid of the powerful and ambitious Richlieu, crushed, at once, the nascent liberties of France. He violated the rights of conscience, deprived the protestants of every privilege, and put a period to the religious struggles which had subsisted for nearly a century, and had destroyed above a million of men.

During Richlieu's administration, the famous protestant-league was formed among the northern powers, at the head of which was the great Gustavus Adolphus, king of Sweden. This formidable combination in favor of protestantism, which severely

shook the German throne; was originated by the profound policy, and was the plan of Richlieu, the very man who had persecuted and destroyed that cause in France.

The reign of Lewis XIII. prepared France for the Augustus of modern times; and dying in 1643, he left as his successor, his son, the celebrated Lewis XIV. then in his minority. The kingdom was disturbed, and torn by factions and intestine broils. The protestants gathered strength on the death of Richlieu, and Lewis, and were headed by a prince of Condé, far more celebrated than the former; and the catholics were led by the truly famous marshal Turenne. The mother of the young king assumed the administration, and, by the policy of Cardinal Mazarine, not only governed France, but was able to manœuvre the diplomatic corps of every court in Europe.

The affairs of the French government had been conducted with such consummate skill, that Lewis XIV. when he assumed the reins, found himself one of the most absolute monarchs in the world. Early in his reign, he had the discernment and good fortune to appoint, as his first minister, the great Colbert, as he is very justly styled.

The glory of France has been essentially owing to the abilities and virtue of a series of great men, who sat at the helm of administration. In this respect, it is probable that no nation, in any age, was ever so fortunate as France. For more than a century, without any cessation, the reins of government were holden with strength, stability, dignity, and wisdom. They

were holden by men of the greatest genius....the most extensive views....the clearest foresight ; by men of the greatest regularity of system ; in short, by men of the utmost grandeur and elevation of mind, always acting in reference to the sublimest views of national prosperity and greatness. Such were Sully, Richlieu, Mazerine, and Colbert, and some others. These things, however, cannot be said of them all, without some qualification. Though aiming, and that successfully, at national aggrandizement, yet some of their measures were dictated by a degree of cruelty, pride, and injustice, which cast a mournful shade over the prospect, otherwise splendid and noble almost beyond mortal perfection.

Lewis XIV. aided by such powerful men, enjoyed a long, glorious, and important reign : to write the history of which, would be, in effect, to write the history of Europe, during that period. The diplomatic science, if so it may be called, begun by his predecessors, he carried on with a much higher hand, and probably perfected. He found means to fill all the courts of Europe with penetrating eyes, listening ears, skillful hands, and nimble feet. He plotted, negotiated, intrigued, deceived, cajoled, and bribed. Men who were corruptible, he bribed, and even bought all such as were worth his money.

His abundant success in managing the concerns of England, can scarcely be read without laughter, or, at any rate, without admiration. England at that time, just landed from a disastrous voyage on "the tempestuous sea of liberty," was governed by the second Charles,

a prince who cared for nothing but his pleasures and debaucheries. If Lewis found him rather an expensive retainer, he also found the unerring clue to manage him and his people. Money, disposed of with diplomatic skill, did the work. And it is almost incredible, that, in spite of all the virtue of England; Lewis did actually govern both parties then existing. He held them both in his hand at once, and, unbeknown to them, he penetrated the counsels, gained the confidence, and dictated the measures of both. Both whig and tory were his tools; and while he urged on the tyranny of the court, and inflamed the lawless ambition of king Charles, he blew up the living coals of patriotic fire...organized a most extensive conspiracy, called the Rye-house plot, in the bosom of which, *imperium in imperio*, he formed a still deeper plot, to assassinate the king, and revolutionize the government.

Into these dangerous and daring schemes he drew many of the noblest lords of England, and still more of the virtuous commons, who were ready to sell their lives to save their country; but who, through an unlucky mistake, sold their consciences to get a little money. Lewis played the same game in several other courts of Europe, and particularly in Sweden, whose fall may be ascribed to French seduction.

The elevation of France, in this splendid reign, as to her foreign relations, was not more conspicuous than in her internal circumstances. Lewis encouraged the arts and sciences....patronized men of learning—and his reign was adorned by several men whose names are highly respectable in the republic of letters.

Ambition was the most conspicuous trait in the character of Lewis. But his reign was marked with various circumstances of injustice, cruelty, and impolicy. The most notorious of these was the revocation of the edict of Nantz, in 1685, passed eighty-seven years before, by his illustrious grandfather, Henry IV. This was little better than a law for exterminating the protestants. They fled from his dominions in such multitudes, as to leave many places without inhabitants. They carried with them, into other countries, and especially into England, the arts and sciences. He lost his ablest artisans and mechanics; and from that time and cause, England gained the ascendancy over France, as a manufacturing people.

But the latter part of the life of Lewis was as unhappy as the first part of it was prosperous: his greatness could not raise him above adversity. For ten years, he experienced the bitterest reverses of fortune. The powers of Europe, alarmed at his overgrown greatness, and exasperated by his pride and insolence, formed a combination against him: and two men appeared in the field who were able to humble his vanity, and rescue Europe from his oppression. The Austrian armies were commanded by prince Eugene, and the English by the duke of Marlborough, one of the most celebrated commanders of modern times, and thought, by some, never to have been excelled in any age or nation. Marlborough and Eugene defeated and cut in pieces whatever forces he sent into the field: they took from him most of his conquests...they entered his dominions with

their victorious armies, and spread a terror and consternation not much inferior to that of Henry V. In short, they shook the foundations of his throne, and not only humbled the haughty tyrant, but made him tremble for his crown and empire.

This desolating war was closed at the peace of Utrecht, in 1713; and France, by the preposterous policy of the British ministry, was saved from a victorious arm, which was able to have recovered and established the claims of Henry V. and to have given law to the *great nation*. Two years after the peace of Utrecht, on the first of September, 1715, Lewis XIV. expired, after having experienced the vicissitudes of fortune, and exhibited an example of this truth, that no mortal, however exalted, is beyond the reach of the shafts of affliction and adversity. Lewis could have shook hands with his brother Charles V. in his celebrated saying, that "Fortune is like other females, because she loves to confer her favors upon young men."

The ancient monarchy of France, especially during the feudal system, was extremely limited. The spirit of freedom and independence which prevailed in Europe was no where more visible than in France. The people held various important and powerful checks upon the crown. But these, for want of a proper balance and distribution of powers, wore gradually away, and the royal prerogative prevailed against justice and unalienable right. Yet still, the flame of liberty would, at times, break forth and burn with great strength, till it was wasted by its own impetu-

esity, or extinguished by the regular advances of despotic power. Next to the reign of Augustus, that of Lewis XIV. was most successful in quelling, silencing, and utterly destroying all notions of civil liberty, and of equal rights. The French people were severely taught to tremble at the power and resentment of Lewis....they were fascinated by his artful, winning, and insidious wiles....they were astonished and won over by his munificence....they were dazzled by his glory; and they were made to believe that to "bask in the meridian blaze" of so splendid a monarchy was their highest happiness.

The reign of Lewis XV. was distinguished by few events worthy of particular notice in this brief survey. Ambitious without abilities, and proud without energy, his life wasted away in the fading splendors of a court so lately illuminated by a monarch of superior powers. During this reign, the principal objects which will engage the attention of the reader of history, will be the capture of the island of Corsica....the suppression of the Jesuits in France, and the causes of the gradual decline of the powers and importance of France among the powers of Europe. But for the investigation of these subjects, the reader must be referred to the histories of France.

On the 10th of May, 1774, the unfortunate Lewis XVI. ascended the throne. We have now arrived at a period in which our readers are acquainted with many more incidents than can have a place in this work. We shall close on this article by stating a very few things, which are most commonly known,

concerning one of the most important, most eventful revolutions recorded in the annals of time : a revolution which derives importance to us on account of our commercial and political relations ; and especially, by reason of its very recent date, and the vast consequences likely to flow from it.

It has been generally thought that France never enjoyed a more amiable, a more virtuously disposed monarch than Lewis XVI. His misfortune from nature, if it can be called a misfortune, in which both kings and people are so generally involved, was the want of those extraordinary powers of mind which are always useful, and, on certain emergencies, indispensable for kings. It is doubtful, whether, if he had possessed the mental powers of some of his predecessors, he would not have suppressed the revolutionizing spirit, and preserved the tranquillity of his dominions. So far from doing that, when the storm arose, the weaknesses he betrayed enervated the tumult, drew destruction upon himself, and the guilt of innocent blood upon his country.

We often contemplate with horror the wretched sufferings of mankind through the tyranny and oppression of their rulers. We as often wonder that any rational being, endowed with passions, and at all capable of self-defence or of revenge, will endure what three-fourths, nay, what nine-tenths of mankind endure from their fellow-creatures who govern them. They are insulted, degraded, and trampled in the dust. Their rights are torn from them....they are deprived of every enjoyment. The scanty earnings

of their painful labors must be cheerfully given up to pamper the luxury of a wanton wretch, before whom they must cringe, and bow, and adore. Why will they endure all this? Because, alas! their case is hopeless. Their disease admits no remedy. The experience of all ages and nations has confirmed and illustrated the truth, that insurrection, revenge, and revolution will but plunge them deeper in misery, and complete their destruction.

Lewis XIV. as already noted, had extinguished every ray of liberty or even of hope, and his immediate successor had neither virtue nor abilities to remedy the evils of the government, or the sufferings of the people. The clergy, the nobility, and the king, were each of them at the head of a separate system of tyranny: so that, in addition to the most cruel and odious oppression of the clergy, the people were crushed by an immense monarchy, and ground to powder by a still more formidable aristocracy. Many, therefore, took part in the revolution from a just and laudable desire to ameliorate their condition. Having little fear of a worse state, they were determined to try to obtain a better. A strong remembrance of the recent fall and ruin of the Jesuits taught them how easy the most powerful men are overthrown, when the multitude are roused and determined to take vengeance.

That restless spirit which pre-disposes many for tumult and commotion, was a powerful mover in the revolution. They love to be in a bustle. The noise of an uproar is to them the sweetest music. Even

the cry of *fire* gives them a sweet pleasure, provided their own hovel is not in danger, because they love to rush with a multitude into any enterprize ; and by how much the greater the number, by so much the fiercer their enthusiasm flames. They act upon the spur of the moment, and their only motive is the gratification of taste. Although such men are the scum or froth of society, yet they are necessary in a revolution. Seldom would any great and sudden revolution take place, were it not for such men : and, luckily for the revolutionist, they are found in abundance in all nations, but especially in France.

The more enlightened people of France had no hope of erecting a free and virtuous republic upon the ruins of monarchy. Their utmost wish extended only to a salutary reform in government. They wished to limit the royal prerogative, and open some prospect for the encouragement of industry and laudable enterprise, by giving security to property. No people will be industrious unless they can be made secure in the pursuits of their labor. The people of France had no security in this respect. A large portion of their income must go to replenish the royal revenue ; another portion must be paid into the church treasury, to augment the enormous wealth of a tyrannical, haughty, and vicious clergy. Besides all this, every poor man was liable to the exactions of his master, land-holder, or temporal lord. Each of these species of exactions were ordinary or extraordinary ; when ordinary, they took a great part of a man's earnings ; when extraordinary,

they took all. Thus, a wretched laborer was often stripped of all he had, and then, to complete his misery, dragged to the fleet or army, and forced to leave his family to perish for want of bread.

To remedy these monstrously overgrown evils, benevolent people were willing to set a revolution on foot, tending merely to a salutary reform ; but whilst they were carefully nursing the tender *infant*, and fostering it with gentlest hands, like Hercules, it rose formidable from its cradle, and crushed them to death by thousands and by millions. In truth, the veil suddenly dropped from the eyes of the people, and they saw, in their full light, the horrors of their condition. With one universal, strong, reiterated struggle they attempted to rise, and plunged themselves *ten thousand fathom deep*.

The prevalence of infidel philosophy, or, as it has been styled, illuminism, in France, had a powerful influence in bringing about the revolution. Those philosophers, with great apparent justice, availed themselves of the enormous corruptions of the religious orders, and the abuses of christianity abounding in the church ; they ridiculed the idea of the divine right of kings, and artfully laid open the oppressive tyranny of civil government. Under a robe, which, to the unwary observer, appeared pure and spotless, they concealed the most atrocious, vile, and blasphemous sentiments concerning all government, both human and divine. They set up human reason as the only light....the only standard of authority....the only deity in the universe. They wished to bring mankind into

such a perfect state of freedom, as that all restraint upon their conduct should be laid aside, together with all distinction of property. They wished to abolish, absolutely, all law—to annihilate all obligation, and, in a word, all distinction between virtue and vice.

This dangerous philosophy prevailed in France; and among its disciples were many of the most eminent literary characters in the kingdom. Indeed, it pervaded all orders of people; and men of this description filled the universities...sustained the most important offices of state, and were, in great numbers, in the court, and about the person of the king. The savour of their doctrines, and the weight of their personal influence, put in motion, by degrees, innumerable wheels and springs of the revolution; and when they perceived things going according to their wish, they were at hand to project the most dangerous and daring schemes, and to develop the horrid extent of their views and wishes.

The armies of France had been eye-witnesses of the success of the American revolution. They had seen a glimpse of the independence, freedom, and happiness of the United States; and had imbibed a portion of the same heroic, invincible spirit which animated the fathers of our happy country. Glowing with sympathy and delight, they carried the borrowed flame across the Atlantic. They painted, in lively colors, to their countrymen, the pleasing scenes they had witnessed; and they affected, most powerfully, the imaginations of that gay and volatile people with dreams of fancied bliss. And they said to themselves,

"shall the Americans, alone, be free ; and must Frenchmen forever groan with painful servitude?" Each peasant became a politician, and freedom was all his theme. Liberty inspired the speculations of the philosopher...the maxims and dogmas of the sage. It resounded in the ditties of the milk-maid and plough-boy, and enlivened the songs of the shepherd and shepherdess. Unhappy people ! Would to heaven you might have gained and long enjoyed that rational freedom which you saw at a distance, but could never realize !...In a word, the wild enthusiasm seized the lower orders....it ascended to the higher ranks of people....surrounded and overturned the throne. Its progress was like that of fire, and its devastations like those of the destroying angel.

Multitudes of men pushed forward the revolution, actuated only by the base and selfish consideration that a popular form of government gives power and consequence to much the greatest number of men ; and of course gives greater hopes of rising to each individual. They view republicanism as a lottery more favorable to their ambitious hopes than monarchy. Such wretched patriots as those are the curse, the plague, the torment, and, indeed, the final ruin and eternal disgrace of all republics. At first they cannot be distinguished from the virtuous and honest man, who truly loves his country. They bring, of course, all honest men into suspicion. They use the language and put on the garb of virtue. They cover their designs so deeply with hypocrisy and lies, that they are often not unveiled but by their fatal and deadly mischief. Men of

this cast are far more useful in pulling down than in building up states and governments. Any incendiary can burn a palace, but a skilful artist alone can build one. The revolutionist seldom considers that if he pulls down his government, and has not strength and skill to build another, he must either inevitably perish in anarchy, or must set some master-workman to building for him; and that the fabricator of the new government becomes his new master, and often proves a greater tyrant than the former. It is a just remark that the most despotic governments are generally the offspring of great revolutions. Thus, a revolution in Syracuse raised up Dionysius....the downfall of Pisis-tratus, in Athens, produced Pericles....a revolt from Rehoboam, in Israel, raised up Jeroboam....the destruction of Julius Cæsar elevated Augustus....Charles II. sprang out of Cromwell's revolution; and, to complete the most perfect climax, as well as to justify the remark beyond dispute, we need only observe the revolution in France.

The general character of the moral and political writings which prevailed in the latter part of the 17th and former part of the 18th centuries, especially in England and France, had a powerful influence in the great events which have changed the face of Europe. But we shall close on this article for the present, and shall reserve the nature and effects of this important revolution, to be considered, when, in a subsequent chapter, we shall speak of the present state of Europe.

CHAPTER VII.

THE SAME CONTINUED....THE NORTHERN POWERS.

THE northern powers, viz. Denmark, Sweden, and Russia, may be considered under one head, as it relates to several essential articles of their general history. They make no figure in ancient history, and very little in modern, till since the beginning of the 16th century. The Danes, indeed, under Canute the great, after frequently invading, made a conquest of England in the 11th century, and established a new dynasty: This was overthrown by William, the conquerer of Normandy....and the Danes make no appearance worthy of notice till the 14th century; when, in 1397, Margaret, by the peace of Calmer, was acknowledged queen of Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. The great abilities with which she acquired and governed this immense dominion gained her the title of Semiramis of the north.

The political importance of Denmark has been gradually diminishing for several centuries. It has generally performed the office of satellite to some of the chief luminaries of Europe; and its history will be found to afford little to profit or to please.

Gustavus Vasa was the first prince of Sweden who made a figure in the concerns of Europe. He rescued his country from the tyranny of the Danes, and elevated it to the first rank, at least, among the northern powers. His grandson, the great Gustavus

Adolphus, was, doubtless, the greatest prince, as well as the ablest commander of his time. In 1611, Gustavus, upon his father's death, was declared of age, and ascended the throne, though only in his eighteenth year. His kingdom, on his accession, was enfeebled by a partial subjection to Denmark, since the times of the great Margaret. He found its internal concerns in the utmost disorder—distracted by divisions, and torn by intestine broils. All his neighbors, the Danes, Poles, and Russians, were at war with him, and had already infested his territories with great armies, relying on his youth and inexperience, and the known weakness of his kingdom. The great Adolphus, on this occasion, showed how far the power of genius transcends even experience itself, and all the artificial acquirements which are within the reach of man. At one effort he dispelled the storm of invasion....at another he silenced all intestine commotions. Before him went victory and triumph, and tranquillity and order marked his footsteps. His enemies every where met with defeat and disgrace, while he extended his conquests, humbled all his neighbors, and nearly made himself master of all Russia.

Soon after this, by the policy of Cardinal Richlieu, as already mentioned, Gustavus was appointed head of the protestant league for opposing and humbling the house of Austria. His life opens one of the most amazing series of splendid actions recorded in history; and when we consider the power of the enemies whom he as uniformly conquered as encountered, we shall see reasons for comparing him with

Hannibal, if not preferring him to that great warrior. Finding no equal in the north, he bent his course southwardly, and, by a course of victories, penetrated the heart of Germany. He utterly defeated the famous count Tilly, the Austrian general, long thought invincible ; and gained a victory equally complete over his successor Wallenstein. But this victory cost him his life. He was unfortunately killed after the field was won, and, with his dying breath, made the prophetic declaration that he had sealed the liberties of Germany with his blood. Had he lived, it is thought he would have put a period to the German empire.

The virtues and abilities of no hero or conqueror shone with greater lustre after his death, than did those of Gustavus Adolphus. They long survived him in the armies which he trained, and in the generals which he formed. The names of Bernard, Torsenson, Bannier, and Wrangel, and some others, will be celebrated to the latest posterity. Those generals continued the war after the death of Gustavus, and gave a blow to the power of the house of Austria which it has never fully recovered. Oxenstiern, the first minister of Gustavus, who managed the affairs of Sweden during the minority of Christina, his daughter and successor, by his consummate skill enabled that princess, in a measure, to dictate the peace of Westphalia.

At the close of the 17th century, Sweden once more made a figure under the extraordinary reign of Charles XII. That Prince ascended the throne in 1697.

He certainly possessed great powers of mind, but was void of prudence or virtue. His attempts were extravagant, and his success, at first, wonderful : but his rashness ruined several noble armies, ruined himself, and finally did irreparable injury to his kingdom.— Since his time, Sweden has been rather on the decline, and is now but a secondary power in Europe.

The extensive dominions and vast power of Russia would furnish an important article in this place ; but it is of so recent a date, (being unworthy of consideration, in this Compend, further back than the reign of Peter the great), that we shall reserve it to be briefly viewed under the present state of Europe.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE SAME CONTINUED....GREAT-BRITAIN.

THE history of most nations is but the history of war and destruction to the human race. The mind is perfectly fatigued and disgusted in reading of nothing but fighting, killing, murder, treason, and desolation. In the history of England the mind is often relieved with a most pleasing variety of prospect. It is the history of arts and sciences....of philosophy and government....of commerce and agriculture—and, to show that the English people are of one blood, and of one spirit with other nations, there is also the history of wars and revolutions....of treasons, plots, massacres, and desolating wars. But the English peo-

ple exhibit a surprising and illustrious example of mental energy and excellence. They have been able to give transcendent importance to a comparatively small island, and that for a long time.

Great-Britain is a much smaller island than Borneo, or Madagascar, or Japan, or some others, which might be named : yet, for nearly twenty centuries, it has holden an important rank among the nations of the earth. In a former chapter we have noticed Egbert at the head of the Saxon heptarchy. This was in the year 800. The successors of Egbert were exceedingly harrassed by the Danes, who at length planted themselves on the sea-coast, and seized all the finest parts of England.

The great Alfred, the deliverer of his country, and, as he is styled, the father of the English constitution, was the grandson of Egbert. When all was given up for lost, and the Danes were considered as masters of England, the "immortal Alfred" suddenly broke from his concealment, where he had, for some years, been hidden in the deepest disguise and remotest recesses. He erected the standard of his native country, which soon became a rallying point. With a small body of men he encountered and defeated the Danes. The rapid rumor of his success drew multitudes to his standard. The Danes were every where cut in pieces, and, in a short time, expelled the island.

Perhaps no monarch ever more justly deserved the title of *Father of his country* than Alfred. After the incessant wars subsided, which made him powerful and independent, he set himself, with the greatest en-

ergy and industry, to improve his kingdom. He founded the university of Oxford, in 895 ; he rebuilt the city of London ; he divided England in counties, hundreds, &c. ; he revived the trial by jury, and gave dignity, purity, and dispatch to the courts of justice ; in a word, it may be said that he did his utmost to diffuse individual happiness among his people, as well as to give his kingdom the external marks of dignity and splendor.

The reign of Alfred was long and prosperous. No prince was ever more beloved by his subjects than he ; and he died in peace, full of days, and covered with glory, in 901.

The successors of Alfred, for more than a century, were employed in wars with the Danes, with various, but, at length, with declining success. In the first part of the eleventh century, Canute the great, king of Denmark, completed the conquest of England, and established himself on the English throne. In 1035, he left his dominions to Harold, who, after a short and inglorious reign, was succeeded by Hardicanute, in whom the Danish race of kings became extinct ; and the ancient line was restored.

The Saxon race was restored in the person of Edward the confessor ; and in him was again deprived of the crown. In 1066, he was succeeded by Harold the usurper, the son of the famous Godwin, earl of Kent.

The British crown seemed now to be unsettled, and, in a measure, at the disposal of the common chances of war. William of Normandy, a prince of great territorial resources, and of still greater abilities for war,

prepared to assert his claim to it ; a very specious claim, indeed....the origin of all monarchical claims : for, as Brennus told the Roman ambassadors, “ the right of conquerors lies in their swords,” William’s claim was grounded wholly in his power. He was successful. Accompanied by many soldiers of fortune, whom the fame of his abilities, and the splendor of his enterprise had drawn from all parts of Europe, he made a formidable descent upon the English coast, and landed without opposition. He was soon met by Harold, at the head, also, of a powerful army. Few fields have been more sharply disputed : arguments of great strength were used on both sides. Their claims were, in point of merit, equal, as well as nearly in point of strength. Each of the rivals, as well as many of their followers, had the same grand objects in view : each fought for life, crown, empire, honor, glory, and everlasting fame. The eyes of all Europe were anxiously turned towards the scene, and the pen of the historian was ready to transmit the event to unborn ages. Great bravery was displayed on both sides.

Harold fell in battle, and William seized, without further opposition, the august prize. He found it, however, more difficult to retain than to acquire the crown of England. He was kept in continual alarms, and his life was endangered by daring plots and conspiracies. His jealousies of the English people, which were not increased without cause, occasioned universal alterations in the internal police of the kingdom. He deeply infringed the ancient constitution ; and, at length, breaking over all restraint, he caused

innumerable confiscations, and, by evidences suborned, the most unjust and cruel attainders of treason. He nearly exterminated the ancient nobility, and effected, by degrees, a conversion of the property of the whole kingdom.

From the times of William the conqueror; to the reign of Henry VIII. the history of England presents a variegated and interesting scene. The Henries and Edwards were, generally, both statesmen and warriors. It will be impossible to go into a particular consideration of their respective reigns ; but we must beg the reader's permission to pass over this very considerable period with a few general remarks.

During this period, the struggles between the three orders, viz. the king, lords, and commons, were incessant, and, at times, had well nigh involved the kingdom in ruin. The great and powerful lords were often too powerful for the crown, and for the commons. They held their castles and strong fortresses in all parts of the island ; and, where an union happened to combine their strength, they seemed often to bid fair to do as Poland has since done, to its own utter ruin....that is, to overturn the throne, and enslave the people. Of all governments in the world, perhaps an aristocracy is the worst. It is like an hydra with an hundred heads : it is restless because ambitious, and weak because disunited : it is miserable because experienced without virtue, and contemptible because wise and crafty without power. The time proper for action is consumed in deliberation, and the lucky moment passes unimproved.

While the English government leaned chiefly towards this form, the nation was feeble, and liable to innumerable divisions ; and, owing to this cause, had been easily subjugated by the Saxons, Danes, and Normans. The undue power and influence of the great lords remained firm and unshaken, and must have ultimately terminated in the ruin of the nation ; but it received a fatal blow by the policy of Henry VII. who so far abolished the feudal tenures, as to enable the nobility and great peers of the realm to alienate their landed estates, which, before his time, they could not. This occasioned a change, and a much wider distribution of property, and had a happy tendency to a juster balance in the powers of government.

The extraordinary abilities, fortunes, and characters of several of the English monarchs, tended greatly to establish, unite, and dignify the nation. Perhaps no nation in Europe, at this early period, were governed so ably and so wisely. Several of the Henries and of the Edwards were men of the most consummate abilities. We have already mentioned Henry V. With his name we may associate that of Edward III. who is called the father of the English constitution. He was equally great in war, and held, during his glorious reign, no less the confidence and veneration of his subjects than the dread of his enemies.

It was the peculiar felicity of England to derive benefit from their worst, as well as from their best and ablest princes. They had several kings who would answer well to put on the black list of Roman

emperors. But, even those disgraceful reigns were directly or indirectly productive of good. In the contemptible and inglorious reign of king John, was laid the corner stone of English liberty—the main pillar of that mighty fabric of power, wealth, political wisdom and safety which has enabled the people of that island to hold, at times, the balance of Europe ; and by which they now hold the empire of commerce and navigation, and are able to unfurl their triumphant flag throughout the whole world of waters.

The *Magna Charta* was a famous bill of rights, founded on the most obvious principles of natural and civil justice ; and, regarding it as a human invention, among all the nations of the world, if we except the United States, nothing can be found, either in ancient or modern times, equal or comparable to it. It demonstrates that, even in the 13th century, the English nation far excelled Greece and Rome in political wisdom and virtue. And the constitutions and bills of rights in our own happy country are but children from that illustrious parent. Whether the English are as wise in the 19th as they were in the 13th century, the writer does not pretend to say. They, doubtless, need as much wisdom.

There is, perhaps, no reign recorded in the annals of history more weak and miserable, or much longer, than that of Henry VI. Yet the struggles and revolutions during that tempestuous reign, were, by no means, the convulsions of death ; but, if we may use a phrase sometimes used by physicians, they were the *vis medicatrix naturæ* of the kingdom.

Old Warwick, *the king-maker*, was then alive, and Queen Margaret could well fight the battles of her husband. The invincible spirit of the nation was often roused; nor was it restored to tranquillity without laying some stone in the national fabric which was destined for many ages to resist the billows of time.

In the period now before us, the reader of English history will find his attention drawn to one of the most extraordinary civil wars in which any nation was ever engaged. It was a contention between the houses of York and Lancaster, for the crown of England. Both descended from the ancient royal line. These wars, after having embroiled the kingdom during many successive reigns, and cost much blood and treasure, were happily ended on the accession of Henry VII. to the throne, in whom both claims were united.

No monarch ever mounted the English throne under greater advantages than Henry VIII. It is supposed that his father, at the time of his death, possessed more ready money than all the monarchs of Europe besides. His kingdom was powerful, united, and at peace with the neighboring powers. His treasure was full, and he was himself a prince of great abilities. But Henry, with all these advantages, was a vain, odious, unprincipled tyrant. His pride and vanity could be measured by nothing but each other, because they were both unbounded. He was false, cruel, capricious, fickle, and of a temper overruled with the meanest jealousy, and the most vindictive resentment. His ty-

rainny seemed always to flow from mere malice and depravity.

Providence, however, employed him as an instrument to humble the pride of a still greater tyrant than himself....the Roman Pontiff. His most celebrated exploits, for he never seemed ambitious of war, were his matrimonial connections and dissensions....his separation from the church of Rome, and his founding the English church—making himself and successors the head of it, (a temporal head to a spiritual body,) and composing a prayer-book and forms of worship for the same.

The support which Luther's reformation in Germany received from several of the most powerful princes of the empire, had already made a great and irretrievable infraction upon the See of Rome. But an event took place in England which gave a still more deadly wound to the beast with seven heads and ten horns. Henry VIII. had conceived an attachment to Ann Boleyn, a young lady of his court, of great beauty and accomplishments. But he found it impossible to marry, and make her the partner of his throne, without he could find a pretext for divorcing his queen, Catherine of Spain. He soon found one to his wish. Before he married her, she had been the wife of his brother Arthur. The king's conscience suddenly grew remarkably susceptible on the occasion, and he shuddered at the idea of having lived so long in the horrid sin of incest. The matter, however, was no sooner suggested than all imputations vanished, and it appeared that his marriage was legal, and

that nothing existed which could, in the slightest degree, tarnish the reputation of his virtuous queen.

What satisfied others could by no means satisfy Henry. His conscience grew more clamorous, and his scruples every day increased. Finding he could effect nothing at home, he made application to the Pope for a dispensation of divorcement. The Pope, after a full hearing of the cause, rejected the application in the most peremptory terms. Henry persisted. The Pope threatened. Henry divorced his queen and married the lady Ann. The Pope thundered a bull of excommunication against him, and laid his kingdom under an interdict, absolving his subjects from their allegiance. Henry, on his part, met the Pope's bull by another bull as stout, and excommunicated the Pope. Thus the separation of England from the Romish church began. Various causes, of a more pure and laudable nature, gave it strength and stability.

The cruelty and crimes of Henry increased progressively with his years. The noblest blood of England flowed to satisfy his savage barbarity of heart. Even the beautiful Ann Boleyn, whom he had married and raised to his throne, found neither in her charms nor virtues any security from the jealousy and rage of this infernal monster. Upon a slight suspicion of inconstancy to the king, she suffered death. But we will not waste the reader's time in tracing the atrocities of a villain of the first magnitude, who, considering his superior advantages, deserves to sink into the shades of eternal infamy, ten thousand degrees below Nero or Domitian. 3

The death of Edward VI. in his 16th year, left the throne vacant to Mary, who was justly styled the bloody Mary. Her administration was distinguished by nothing but weakness and cruelty. The flames of persecution were lighted up all over the kingdom, and the names of Bonner and Gardiner will descend, with infamy, to all posterity, as being the base instruments of her cruelties.

Mary died in 1558, and her short and inglorious reign was followed by one of a character opposite in all respects. Elizabeth, daughter of Henry VIII. by Ann Boleyn, succeeded her sister Mary, in her 25th year, and continued to govern England 45 years. The chief traits of her administration were energy, sagacity, a good share of justice, able councils, a profound and extensive policy, and what Cicero calls felicity, or good fortune. Few monarchs ever held the reins of government with a stronger, more steady, or cautious hand than queen Elizabeth: yet, with all these, were blended, it is said, a slight tinge of the vanity of her sex, and of the arbitrary cruelty of her father.

Under such an administration, as might be naturally expected, many important objects were accomplished. The internal structure of the English government received vast accessions of strength and perfection. The reformation begun by Henry VIII. and attempted to be destroyed by Mary, was rendered permanent under the reign of Elizabeth. The protestant cause in Europe received countenance, credit, and support from so powerful a friend. Confu-

ston was poured upon the gloomy counsels and sanguinary designs of Philip II. And the English navy acquired universal respectability by its brilliant victories over the Spanish fleets.

Elizabeth was succeeded by James VI. of Scotland, and I. of England ; under whose crown was united the sovereignty of the British island. The only great exploit in which James excelled all other men, was his discovering the powder-plot, which would, otherwise, have escaped the sharpest eyes in England. The catholic faction had contrived to bury 36 barrels of powder under the parliament house, where the king, lords, and commons were, on a certain day, to be convened. The plot, though entrusted to nearly an hundred persons, had been kept a profound secret for eighteen months, and was within a few hours of its consummation, when a certain member of the parliament received an anonymous letter, of the most singular contents, in a blind way, warning him to abstain from attending the parliament. The letter was communicated to the king, who laid it before his privy council. When all were at a loss, and many concluded it to be a mere ridiculous whim, the king gave it as his opinion that a plan was laid to blow up the parliament with powder. On searching the vaults of the house, the powder was found ; and Guy Fawks, a daring villain, was taken with the matches in his pocket for firing the magazine.

James, with all the pride of royalty which any monarch needs, had neither genius nor abilities to govern. The contrast between him and Elizabeth

was striking. He was weak, superstitious, timid, and, of course, jealous. His administration laid the foundation for the misfortunes and fall of his successor, Charles I. who succeeded him in 1625.

The revolution of Cromwell, and the history of England, since that time, are generally well understood. To enter particularly into the several important articles of that recent period, would protract this work far beyond our original design. We must therefore pass it over with a few general remarks; and only add here, that Charles I. fell a sacrifice to his own folly and imprudence in Cromwell's revolution. After Cromwell, Charles II. recovered his father's crown and dominions. James II. succeeded him—a prince less wicked, indeed, than his brother, Charles II.; but more weak and foolish than his father, Charles I. He was deposed, and succeeded by William, prince of Orange. William was succeeded by Ann, and she by George I. II. and III.

Cromwell's revolution, professedly set on foot in the cause of freedom, seems to be a convincing proof that a limited monarchy is that form of government, above all others, best adapted to the character of the English nation. It is said by judge Blackstone, the reader may judge how justly, that the English government comprises the excellencies, and excludes the defects of the three leading forms of government. There is a monarch whose prerogative is limited... an aristocracy whose powers are defined....and a democracy whose privileges are guarded. If their theory is better than their practice, they are not alone.

The English nation have exhibited one mark of wisdom, energy, and virtue, above all other nations. After so great, so dangerous, so wasting a revolution as that of Cromwell's, they seemed to rise, not like Sampson after he had lost his hair; but like one who is made virtuous by affliction....strong by exertion, and wise by experience. The vicious, inglorious, and troublesome reigns of the house of Stewart, following that revolution, could not prostrate a nation which seemed made not for the tools, but the scourge of tyrants.

Since the commencement of the 17th century, the progress of the British nation in all the arts and sciences has been truly astonishing, and has outrun all calculation. From her universities have issued an immense constellation of learned men, equally useful and ornamental to the world. Locke and Newton, from their innumerable excursions into the material and intellectual worlds, irradiated the minds of men with beams of knowledge which lay hidden from the wisest of the ancients. Others have improved upon their foundations: and every art and science has been pursued, improved, and brought nearer to perfection.

The national debt of Great-Britain is a matter of admiration in every point of view. Upon it the mathematician, the financier, and the statesman have wasted even the midnight lamp in calculation. It has been made, by theorists, the subject of controversy, of applause, of ridicule....it has exhausted the declamatory powers of tongues and pens without number....

it has often called up the spirit of prediction, and political augurs have foretold its final term and destiny. This immense debt, if that may be called a debt, which is debt in one hand and credit in the other hand of the same body politic, has been accumulating for better than a century, and, in 1799, was about \$500,000,000L. sterling. It is much more now; but the latest calculations we have not, this instant, before us. This subject opens various fruitful sources of doubt: it is doubtful whether this vast debt can ever be paid: it is doubtful how long it may continue to accumulate consistent with national tranquillity; and it is equally doubtful, whether to annihilate it by a revolution would not be fatal to the kingdom. *Fata invenient viam.*

The commerce and naval force of Great-Britain is a subject of admiration equal to that of the national debt. Her commerce extends to all parts of the world, and her navy is more than equal to all the navies of Europe beside. By means of her power by sea, she has subdued or rendered tributary the finest parts of India, and many of the most productive islands in the ocean. Into her immense capital, rivers of incalculable wealth are daily pouring from every part of the world. Her India trade has opened by far the most extensive, lucrative, and dignified systems of commerce ever known, and the merchants and nobility of London are able to make a display of diamonds and pearls, in their dress, equalling, if not exceeding the superbest courts of Asia.

The reign of George III. will be considered in history as an important and glorious reign. The

loss of jurisdiction over the American colonies, if an evil at all, is trifling in comparison with the vast accessions of power and wealth which Great-Britain has made, during the present reign, in other parts. She can derive as much benefit from the trade of the colonies now, as before the revolution which made them independent. Had they maintained their colonial relation, her chief benefit must always have been of a commercial nature: that she may still enjoy, if she will treat them with good manners. George III. has not been celebrated as a statesman, a warrior or a monarch: he has, however, had one mark of a wise prince; —he has not wanted for able and wise counsellors in his cabinet; great commanders both by sea and land; and men of integrity and talents at the heads of the several departments of government. By these, he alone, of all the monarchs of Europe, has been able to resist, hitherto, the madness and rage of a revolution; which, in its formidable progress, has changed the face of Europe, and still threatens to destroy its liberties.

CHAPTER IX.

THE SAME CONTINUED....THE ECCLESIASTICAL
STATES.

FROM the first part of the 7th century, the ecclesiastical state has been one of the most powerful and important in the world. Its powers were professedly of a spiritual or religious nature, but in reality of a temporal: indeed, we may go so far as to say they were carnal, sensual, and devilish.

In the book of Revelation, it is said that St. John saw a woman sitting upon a scarlet-colored beast ; which beast had seven heads and ten horns. The woman had in her forehead written the names of blasphemy, and she was called *mystery Babylon the great, the mother of harlots, &c.* This woman is considered as representing the church of Rome.—The beast on which she sat represented the temporal powers which gave her support : its seven heads, according to some writers, represented the seven hills on which ancient Rome was built, or, according to others, the seven forms of government which have been exercised over that empire ; and the ten horns, ten kingdoms over which Rome once reigned with a temporal, and afterwards with a spiritual dominion.

It must be confessed that the symbols are striking, and the allusions extremely just : at any rate, the power of the supreme pontiff, who became universal bishop the same year that Mahomet forged the Koran, was very great. His interdict upon a nation suspended the performance of all religious rites, and cut them off from communion. He could absolve a nation from their oath of allegiance to their king ; and give them a right to dethrone and destroy him at their pleasure. And such was the superstition of those times, that when a nation was interdicted, they were considered as exposed to the immediate wrath of heaven. The greatest consternation prevailed : their streets would be filled with men, women, and children, with garments rent, hair dishevelled, beating their breasts, and deprecating the divine vengeance. The sovereign pontiff had power to pardon all manner of sins, and even to

grant indulgence for the commission of the most enormous crimes. He claimed infallibility, and as Christ's vicar and viceroy on earth, held the keys of heaven and of hell. From the enormity of these claims, and that in the hands of the vilest and most profligate of mortals, we may conjecture into what extremes of wickedness they would go.

They went into all possible extremes; and, indeed, exceeded any conception which one can form who never read the history of their proceedings. Princes and the greatest emperors have been known to stand barefoot at the gate of the haughty pontiff, patiently waiting for admittance : and when admitted, the holy father would set his foot upon their necks, and tread upon their crowns. In this manner one of the popes served an emperor of Germany : but they could not tread upon the neck of Henry VIII.

Since the reformation in Germany and England, the papal throne has tottered. While Henry IV. governed France, his favor to the protestants hastened the decline of that formidable hierarchy : and even Lewis XIV. though he destroyed the protestants of his own kingdom, yet he aided their cause in the person of Gustavus Adolphus, who headed the protestant league against the house of Austria. After Gustavus failed, William III. of England, who shook severely the throne of France, and Queen Ann, by the Duke of Marlborough, for a while obtained the most splendid triumphs for the protestant cause, and of course weakened the church of Rome.

The French revolution threatened, for a while, the extinction of popery : but the emperor Napoleon, fear-

ing the force of the old maxim, *no bishop no king*, has become a friend to his holiness, and has re-established the catholic church in France. But the weakness of Spain, Portugal, and Italy....the reformation of Germany and England....the irreligion of France, and, indeed, the common sense of mankind have, at length, reduced the bishop of Rome nearly upon a level with other bishops. His vices are censured....his virtues are credited....his ghostly power is despised...his infallibility laughed at, and he is little thought of among the rulers of states and empires.

Since the fall of the ancient Romans, there has nothing existed in Europe like universal empire: therefore, by the course of empire since that time, nothing more can be intended than a series of states or kingdoms, which, all things considered, have been more powerful than their neighbors. On this subject there may be different opinions. Were we to represent the course of empire by a line drawn through individual kingdoms, we should draw it thus: viz. through *Assyria, Persia, Greece, Carthage, Rome, Constantinople, Turkey, Germany, and France.*

CONCLUSION.

Thus have we pointed out to the student the general outlines, or the mere skeleton of what he will find in reading the history of nations. As a man who stands on an eminence, and looks attentively over a wide and diversified prospect, so is the historian.—Through the long period of five thousand years, his eye wanders among innumerable millions, and describes people, nations, and languages, who were once active

in the busy scenes of time, but are now reaping the retributions of eternity. The great nations which enjoyed universal empire are now silent in the dust.— And, as objects subtend a less angle in proportion to their distance, so, a century, buried deep in the vale of antiquity, appears but as an hour, and the duration of a nation as a day. In the morning its infancy is weak, and its chief defence is in the weakness of others : it gathers strength by adversity, and at length acquires a vigorous youth. At mid-day its manhood is strong and lofty : it basks for an hour in the beams of prosperity, and drinks deep the inebriating draughts of luxury and pleasure. And now its beauty fades.... its strength decays....its glory perishes, and the declining day hastens a night of storms, and clouds, and everlasting darkness.

The nations of men resemble the perpetually rolling and conflicting waves of the ocean. If a billow rise high, it is but to sink as low ; if it dash its neighboring billow, it is but to be dashed in its turn ; if it rage and foam, it is but to exhaust itself the sooner ; if it roll tranquilly on the bosom of the deep, it is but to sink forever by its own gravity. It is thus with all nations...with all human institutions...with all the noblest inventions and works of art.

“ The cloud-capt towers....the gorgeous palaces—
The solemn temples....the great globe itself ;
Yea, all which it inherits, shall dissolve—
And, like the baseless fabric of a vision,
Leave not a wreck behind.”

And alas ! the ravages of time, though rapid and resistless, are too slow to satisfy the furious rage of

restless mortals. They must share the empire of destruction. To them the work of death is most pleasant; and to cultivate the art of killing and destroying, has been their chief pride and glory in all ages: and whilst employed in that dreadful work, they sink in destruction themselves. Unhappy children of men! When will you learn to know and to prize your true interest? When will you be convinced of that, than which nothing is more certain, that war adds infinitely to the number and weight of your calamities—that it fills the world with misery, and clothes all nature in mourning—that it covers your souls with crimson, inexpiable guilt, and brings upon you the wrath and curse of heaven?

Is there to be no change in this tragic....this dreadful scene of blood and slaughter? Shall brotherly love and cordial affection never become universal, and peace unfurl her white banner throughout the earth? Is there no durable institution founded in virtue, and permanent as the eternal rules of justice? Is there no firm ground of hope—no rock on which truth and reason may build a fabric that shall never fall? Yes.... there is a KINGDOM: its foundations were laid of old: its King is the God of heaven: its law is perfect love: its dominions are wide, for they extend to the wise and virtuous in all worlds: all its subjects are safe, for they are defended by almighty power; and they shall rise to eternal prosperity and glory when all earthly kingdoms shall vanish like a shadow or a dream.

There is an unseen hand which guides the affairs of nations. Throughout all their changes and revolu-

tions, through the seemingly dark and troubled chaos of human concerns, an almighty providence overrules; and all events, past, present, and to come, are employed in directing and completing the destinies of all creatures, in subserviency to that infinitely great and glorious kingdom which shall never be removed.

CHAPTER X.

THE PRESENT STATE OF EUROPE.

THE great alterations in the affairs of Europe, since the French revolution, and the continual changes which are making, render the subject before us very difficult. Before these sheets are published, the state of Europe may be considerably changed from what it now is. As it relates to the political relations of that quarter of the globe, we can only say that a great revolution is now on the wheel. Whether it will be stationary, progressive, or retrograde, we cannot tell. Events may be in embryo, which will defeat all calculation, and render the state of Europe better or worse than it ever has been.

KNOWLEDGE.

Europe, in point of knowledge, has holden the ascendancy, for more than two thousand years, over the other quarters of the globe: and we shall hazard the opinion, that a comparison of the present, with all former periods, will be found highly favorable to the pres-

ent time. In the most flourishing periods of Greece and Rome, knowledge, or mental improvement, in general, was limited to a few places. If we take into view all the Greek and Roman territories, it is probable that not one to ten among the Greeks, and not one to an hundred among the Romans, knew how both to read and write : but, at the present time, it is probable that more than one third of the people of all Europe know both how to read and write. The art of printing has filled all places with books, and brought the means of knowledge within the reach of mankind in general.

Yet how many millions, even in that quarter of the globe, are still enslaved by ignorance and error. The peasants in Poland, Sweden, Denmark, and Russia, are the most ignorant people in Europe. They are bought and sold with farms on which they live, and their lives are at the disposal of the great lords who own them : yet they know no means of relief. They do not, in many instances, know but that all is right. Like a beast of burden, they bow to the yoke, and if they often groan with painful servitude, they seldom think of deliverance. The manners and habits of those nations are so firmly fixed, their prejudices so deep and strong, that there is little prospect of any alteration for the better.

It is matter of surprise that the more enlightened and wise part of society, in those nations, even that their governments, who consist of great and accomplished statesmen, well acquainted with all Europe, do not reason more correctly, and act more consistently,

relative to their peasantry. They certainly know that industry cannot exist where it is not encouraged—that nothing can awaken enterprise but a prospect of great gain. They also know that their peasantry have no encouragement to industry, and no stimulus to enterprise. They see them to be a poor, miserable, ignorant race ; as void of ambition as beasts, yet without their docility : of course, they see their farms unimproved....the ancient forests maintain their ground, and even wild beasts make head against them. In times of peace, their agriculture, their commerce, their manufactures are neglected : and, in time of war, if we except Russia, their armies are contemptible.

The poor of these nations should be encouraged, first of all, by giving them instruction, and then by placing before them the proper motives to industry.

It has been often questioned, whether the prevalence of knowledge in society would not tend to sedition, disloyalty, treason, and rebellion. Experience determines this question in the negative. The most knowing and the wisest people have been generally the easiest governed. Government scarcely exists among savages. In barbarous countries there is always a continual succession of turbulent rebellions and revolutions. It will not be denied that the English nation, taken as a body, are the best instructed and most knowing people in Europe ; and their government is the most regular and permanent.

It is a general rule that the most knowing or best informed people have the best government in practice, at least, if not in theory, and commonly in both. For

example, the governments of France and Germany are better than those of Spain and Russia, and the people of the former are certainly better informed than those of the latter. The government of Poland has been remarkable for weakness—that of Turkey for strength; but both have been equally corrupt and wicked, and the people who live under them are the most ignorant of any in Europe. The letter and spirit of the Russian government consider all its subjects as slaves, or even machines without will. They live quietly under such a government because they are without understanding.

It is an important question how far a continual and rapid increase of knowledge, among all classes of people, would go towards remedying the evils of all governments, and even towards abolishing the system of war now pursued by most nations. It is also an important question, to what extent learning might be carried in society, consistent with its true interests. It would be vain and useless to ascertain the former without previously ascertaining the latter question.

No nation, and doubtless no state, has carried the system of education to that height and perfection which would best promote its internal well-being and honor. No individual town, even in New-England, has pursued this object in proportion to its importance. To open this subject for discussion, we will suppose an extreme case, and from that extreme will descend to such means as must be acknowledged to be attainable.

We will suppose, for the sake of illustration, that every man in Europe had the knowledge of Sir Wil-

liam Pitt : we will say nothing about virtue ; the perfection, or prevalence of which, among men, is never to be looked for as the fruit of their exertions. A change would gradually or suddenly take place in all the governments of Europe. A man, when he knows his true interest, will naturally pursue it. The present oppressions of Europe are generally mere impositions upon ignorance and simplicity. The poor peasant firmly believes that he was born to serve, and his lord to rule. He believes that his body is made of coarser materials....that his blood is less rich, and that his soul, if he knows he has one, is from a humbler stock of intelligence. Give him knowledge....raise him within the sphere of Pitt's intelligence, and all these delusions vanish. He sees the faults of his government....he sees a remedy within his reach : he pursues, and gains it.—He would never endure what the poor ignorant wretch endures, who knows not...who thinks not, even in his dreams, of a better state. The ignorance and servility of the poor, is at once both the cause and effect of their poverty. And certainly it invites and allures the impositions, the aggressions, the domination and insolence of men of stronger minds.

After all that has or can be said of the power of wealth, "The mind's the standard of the man." Give the lower orders of people in Europe but the intellectual powers of the higher....give them the mental cultivation, the ambition, the fire of genius, and the wall which separates them will fall to the ground.

It is readily granted that all men can never acquire the knowledge of William Pitt : but how vastly ig-

norant is the bulk of the people, in the most enlightened nations ! and with what ease their minds might be raised, almost infinitely above what they are. Let the expence of education rest on the government empowered to draw sufficient funds from the nation. This is, indeed, partially, the present method of the New-England states. And from this very source, they are the freest, happiest, and most enlightened people on earth. They, however, pursue it but feebly.

No doubt it will be said that this is theory. What then ? Is nothing worthy of regard which admits of theoretical speculation ? Is not the education of youth an object worthy the attention of government ? If it could be regarded as such, as it ought universally to be, certainly no governmental object ever outweighed it—no earthly object ever more justly demanded legislative wisdom. It was the opinion of Lycurgus that the partial affection of parents for their children disqualified them for exercising government over them. Admitting this as an extreme, we would have government interfere no further with children, than to point out the nature and extent of their education, and provide and pay their teachers.

It is no uncommon thing for boys to graduate in our colleges at sixteen years of age. If, then, we except the Greek and Latin languages, every boy might receive as good as a liberal education before he is fit to become an apprentice, or go into a counting-house.—Nor should his improvement be limited here : other institutions should be formed, to extend the mind, and to carry into manly maturity the seeds of honor, truth,

and justice, liberally planted in youth ; yet of a nature not to interfere with a course of business.

If the funds, necessary to defray the expences of these important institutions, were raised from an equal assessment of property, it would seem, at first view, to bear heavy on the rich, especially if they had no children : but, in the name of heaven, for what more important purpose can the rich and childless pay their money ? Do they not pay freely to support war, government, and almost numberless public institutions ? And is the formation, the well-being, the glory and prosperity of the rising generation, an object inferior to any of these ?—But, in effect, it would not bear hard upon the rich ; for there would soon be very few poor. I appeal to the present, though imperfect, practice of the New-England states. There are fewer poor among them than in any part of the world.

There is nothing wanting, then, but virtue in mankind—nothing but a proper direction even of selfishness itself, to effect far greater improvements in society....far more light and knowledge than, as yet, ever existed in any nation. These improvements, so far from being prejudicial to government, would soon originate governments which the individual happiness of men would induce them to love and support. And these governments, whether monarchies or republics, would enjoy the confidence of the people, and those who administered them would possess a power far more permanent and illustrious than what they can in the present system of things. As there must always be in every nation rulers and ruled, the security and

happiness of the latter will forever guarantee those of the former.

Should it be objected that there could not be a change in these respects, in Europe, without revolutions and effusions of blood; be it so: neither can things remain in their present state without the same. There will be one revolution upon the back of another; there will be treasons, rebellions, and bloody wars. Tyrants never had, and never will have rest.

If the several governments in Europe would begin to effect this glorious reform, by opening to their subjects the fountains of knowledge....by setting before them the proper motives to virtue and industry, they would find domestic concerns sufficient to call their attention from foreign wars; and the millions of money employed in cultivating the art of war, would be employed in promoting the grandest objects of human happiness.

But who shall begin this salutary work? What power—what potentate has magnanimity sufficient? No mention shall be made of virtue. They only want the knowledge of their interests, and the means of happiness is within their reach.

INDUSTRY.

There are but few industrious nations in Europe. The wealthy despise it; and the poor have not the proper incentives to it. The Dutch have, perhaps, been excelled by no European nation in this respect; but their industrious days are over. A rapacious and powerful master now stands ready to seize what they have got, and to anticipate what they may

get hereafter. The Turks, the Italians, and the Spaniards are nearly on a footing as to industry. Among them, a soft, relaxing climate has completed all the idle and vicious habits which their governments naturally induce. Their rulers seem determined that they shall have nothing; and the people, lost to all ambition and sense of freedom and honor, have become willing that it shall be so, and are willing to possess nothing: they, therefore, live in a very poor, and, at best, in a precarious manner. With their present exertions they must literally starve to death, did they not live in very fruitful countries, where nature produces almost spontaneously for their sustenance.

The people in the north of Europe are compelled to labor, or they must perish. But their toil is ill-directed, and without any spirit of enterprise, although severe. They cannot work with courage, and surmount difficulties with cheerfulness, because they are strangers to the animating hope of acquiring wealth, or even a comfortable living. Whatever they get must go to pamper the pride of a haughty, tyrannical master, who can hardly be willing they should breathe the vital air without paying a tax for it. So stupid and extreme is the folly of the governments themselves, that their exactions are an effectual check even upon the spirit of commerce; and all the means of the people, in general, to acquire any degree of opulence, are completely fettered.

This is eminently the case in Sweden and Denmark. Their governments know it...their kings know it...their ministry know it...their philosophers

know it....all their statesmen and wise men know it.... every man of learning in those kingdoms knows it ;— yea, and they know much more than all this : they well know that while things remain in this state they can never flourish. They must be a poor, feeble, faint-hearted, vile race of wretches, always ready to join the basest and most cowardly villany, but never capable of a noble enterprise. They know all this; and yet they will, with their eyes open, strive to maintain the present mad system. They will keep it up till they are the scorn of Europe....till they share the fate of Poland....till their kings, their ministry, their statesmen, their philosophers, their wise men and men of learning shall all fall a prey to their own preposterous folly....till they shall have their houses burned, their throats cut, their kingdoms destroyed, and their territories *sown with salt*.

Germany and France, while they have loaded industry with almost insuperable burdens, have, it must be confessed, afforded some important encouragements, both as to honor and emolument. They have, on the whole, made it better for people to be slaves than lazeroni: for, though they are almost squeezed to death by monstrous exactions, extortions, taxes, imposts, excises, customs, tolls, duties, rates, tithes, fees, rents, contributions, donations, tributes, and several other species of public demand, yet many industrious people are able, notwithstanding all this, to acquire wealth, and to attach respectability to themselves and families.

The English people excel all Europe in industry.

There are no bounds set to their enterprise; and their farmers, tradesmen, and especially their merchants, avail themselves, to an amazing extent, of their advantages. This has long been their character, and it has long been their salvation. Give a nation but knowledge, industry, and virtue, and they will flourish. Nothing can depress them. A national debt as heavy as mount Olympus cannot sink them....a revolution cannot crush them....a tyrant cannot long hold them prostrate, no more than the strength of one can resist the strength of millions.

TERRITORY.

Most nations of every age have been ambitious of extensive territories. Hence originates the desire of conquest, by far the most fruitful source of war. The charge that monarchies are addicted, more than other governments, to war and conquest, is by no means just. None of the ancient nations were more warlike or more greedy of conquest than the three great republics of antiquity....Greece, Carthage, and Rome. They seemed never satisfied while any nation remained independent of them. The situation of Europe is best calculated for small kingdoms and states. Its several parts are remarkably separated by large rivers, mountains, straights; and seas, which serve to impede the progress of armies, and check the rapidity of conquest. If modern republics have been less warlike than ancient, it is because they have seen less prospect of being able to cope with their neighbors.

No nation of very extensive territories ever long maintained its freedom. Rome cannot be brought as

an exception to this rule, since it must be remembered, on the one hand, that the conquered provinces of that republic were governed with the most despotic sway, and on the other, that Rome, in fact, lost her liberties immediately upon the fall of Carthage. It will hence follow that republicanism is better adapted to small than large territories. It is hoped that the United States may form one lasting exception. We give so much credit to the doctrine, however, that we strongly question the policy of enlarging our territories.

The Russian empire is by far the largest that ever existed. It includes a complete northern section of Europe and Asia, and, according to some late calculations, comprehends one seventh part of the habitable earth. This immense territory is governed by a most absolute, arbitrary, despotic sovereign. The Russians were little known till the reign of Peter I. called the great. He extended his arms and conquests over the barbarous tribes which thinly inhabited the vast countries from the gulph of Finland to the sea of Kamschatka; and from the Caspian to the White sea. The rivers, forests, and extensive plains he passed, presented him greater difficulties than the defenceless people he conquered.

The long, active, and glorious reign of the great Catherine was, in a good measure, devoted to the improvement of this mighty empire; and she did much. She instructed and civilized her people....she organized a powerful and combining system of government, founded, for the most part, on a humane and rational policy.

lize the soil of liberty and justice. Those sacred names were used as a watchword, to commence an onset of tragic horror, at the sight of which Domitian or Commodus would have relented. They have injured the cause of freedom, and they threaten to exterminate every principle of civil liberty.

Where are all the republics of Europe? Where is Venice, who shielded christendom from the Turks—who enriched Europe with her commerce? She survived the league of Cambray, but to experience a severe fate: she escaped the rock, and is lost in the whirlpool: she is subjugated, enslaved, ruined, and is no more known among independent nations.

Where is the once powerful and flourishing republic of Holland? Where the immense treasures of her bank, perhaps the richest in the world? Where her powerful fleets, by which she was able to dispute the empire of the sea with Great-Britain? Where her universal commerce....her public credit....her importance, prosperity, and glory? It avails her nothing that she could once resist the arms of Philip II. and Lewis XIV.—that she has, by unparalleled industry, turned the most unpromising spot in Europe into a garden. Her sun is set....her glory forever faded, and she is humbled in the dust.

Switzerland, situated among the rocks and declivities of the Alps, a prize utterly unworthy of a great conqueror, is swallowed in the same gulph. The story of the brave and virtuous William Tell must no longer be remembered. The days of liberty, independence, honor, and virtue are past, and the Swiss

cantons must, without complaint or remonstrance, submit to the imperious mandates of a foreign master, or perish by fire and sword.

The revolution in France has given the severest blow to the cause of civil liberty that it ever received since the foundation of the world. By one tremendous shock it has annihilated most of the lesser powers of Europe ; and those which remain stand on doubtful ground. Trace over the map of Europe, and see what it presents.—Turkey is in her dotage ; but were it otherwise, she is the hereditary foe of all christian powers—by her condition perfectly unable, and equally unwilling by her principles, to benefit her christian neighbors. . The Russians, under Count Romansow, severely shook her foundations ; and should the Gallic conqueror point the thunder of his invading columns at her head, her triple crown would form but a feeble defence : she must fall.

Poland has conquered herself. She managed her affairs so feebly that her more powerful neighbors judged it incumbent on them to help her out of her difficulties, and, by their interference, to afford her that quiet which she could not hope for from her own energy and wisdom. They stepped in and performed an act, which Solomon himself, if alive, must confess to be a new thing under the sun. They dismembered, if we look merely at natural advantages, one of the most powerful kingdoms in the world, and partitioned her off with nearly as little disturbance as they would an uninhabited, unappropriated forest or island.

But how vastly distant from civility, humanity, and happiness, are the numerous millions of that empire ! It is a country too large to be governed by any single mortal ; and it will, probably, one day, fall in pieces by its own weight, under some feeble reign. Indeed, the rebellion of Pugatshef, in the reign of Catharine, had like to have rent it in pieces.

The history of the reign of Catharine opens one of the most important scenes found in the annals of nations. Few reigns were ever more prosperous, and few monarchs ever governed with more consummate skill. She was loved and feared by her subjects : she held an extensive influence in the politics of Europe, both in war and peace ; and she was surrounded by a group of great and very extraordinary characters. Such were the Orloffs, Potempkin, and several others.

Were it made a question, what extent of territory is most conducive to national happiness and security, we should be at a loss how to answer it. Little instruction could be drawn from experience ; the histories of nations afford no certain ground for conclusion. Empires and states of all sizes, from that of St. Marino in Italy, which comprehended the inhabitants of but one small village on a hill, to that of the empire of Russia, or of Ghenghis Khan, seem at all times to have owed their safety and happiness to far other circumstances than their size. An independent state sometimes owes its safety to its poverty—sometimes to the virtue of its neighbors, but oftener to their weakness—sometimes to its own power and prosperity, but oftener far to its virtue and industry. If size were of

any account in the happiness or duration of a state, certainly Poland would have been happy, and would not have been torn in pieces by her rapacious neighbors. Spain would be very powerful and happy if power and happiness were the offspring of territories both rich and extensive. The same may be said of Turkey, Germany, and many others.

CONQUEST.

If we except the conquests of France since the revolution, there have been few conquests in Europe, for the last five hundred years. The successes of the French under Bonaparte, as yet, hardly deserve the name of conquests. Their permanence depends on the life and fortunes of a single man. If the present Emperor should, by any means, fail, or be removed, they would generally revert back to their former state. A slight view of the geography of Europe will show that it is favorable to the existence of small states ; and modern policy has erected a strong barrier against the ambition of heroes and conquerors. Negotiations, treaties, and defensive alliances, have been carried to that degree of perfection—to that extent of refinement, that Europe has borne some resemblance to a society of individuals, in which the strength of the whole is exerted for the protection of individuals. Would to God that this system might be carried still much farther, that nations would see it for their interest, not only to abolish conquest, but war—that they would be willing to settle their differences in a grand court of justice, like the amphictyonic council.

The moderns, however, have shown as good an appetite for conquest, as the ancients ; but have had the

precaution, in their own defence, to give origin and effect to a scheme of policy which renders it far more difficult. Italy has been several times nearly conquered within five hundred years, but soon recovered. France was nearly conquered by Henry V. and Germany by Gustavus Adolphus. Venice was endangered by the league of Cambray....and even Russia itself might have been conquered by Charles XII. if he had not been a madman. So, Sweden and Poland were nearly subdued by Margaret, the Semiramis of the north : and, indeed, there is scarcely a nation in Europe but has been in danger of subjugation, but has escaped : and, except Poland, no nation has been conquered in Europe for the last 800 years. The conquest of the empire of Constantinople, by Mahomet the great, is the last of any considerable importance, till the tornado of French *republicanism* arose. Where or when that will settle, is known only to infinite wisdom.

Conquests generally, though not always, ruin the conquered. If they are small, they cost the conquerors more than they are worth....if large, they often ruin the conquerors themselves. Thus, as we have said before, the conquest of Nineveh ruined the Medes.... that of Babylon, the Persians. The conquest of Persia corrupted the Greeks....as did that of Carthage, the Romans. Should the French, under Bonaparte, conquer all Europe, France, which now forms a complete empire, would then be only a part of one : the seat of government might be removed, and she would become but a satellite : Bonaparte's successors might quarrel, and divide his conquests, as did those of Al-

exander ; and France might be liable to change masters, and be fleeced from time to time by various pretenders to empire. In her present boundaries, France bida much fairer for perpetual independence and happiness, than if she were to conquer Europe.

England forms an exception to our rule. She rose more powerful, after being conquered by the Saxons, the Danes, and the Normans. Whether the effect will be similar, should she fall under France, we shall not pretend to say. There has been one eminent instance in Asia, in which both conquerors and conquered were equally benefitted. In 1644, the Tartars conquered China, and the descendants of Tamerlane ascended the throne of that ancient and mighty monarchy. The ferocious Tartars gradually melted away, and were lost in the immense population of China, and, in effect, became the conquered people, by adopting the customs, and conforming to the manners of the Chinese. By this great conquest, the Chinese were strengthened, and rendered warlike ; the Tartars were civilized and reduced to a settled form of society ; perhaps both were equally benefitted....since, together, they form the greatest and most powerful monarchy in the world.

FRENCH REVOLUTION.

The French revolution threatens more serious consequences to Europe, than any one since the fall of ancient Rome. It has utterly defeated every calculation and prediction excepting one. It was early foreseen and foretold that it would injure, or rather would not help the cause of freedom. The rivers of innocent blood shed in that horrid scene, could never ferti-

Italy, Switzerland, France, part of Germany, the Netherlands, and the states of Holland. All these powers, if not provinciated, are in a state of degradation, waiting, in trembling suspense, the uplifted blow which shall subjugate them forever.

The revolutionary parties in France, in dreadful succession, have rushed on impetuous as a thunderbolt, from monarchy to anarchy....from anarchy to democracy....from democracy to oligarchy, and from thence to despotism, which, of all forms of government, is probably the only one they are susceptible of, or can live under. They have already made more than one complete revolution. In the irresistible and mighty whirl of their affairs, they have brought to light a soldier of fortune, who unites the rapid genius and grand views of Alexander to the ambition and good fortune of Julius Cæsar. He has, even though a Corsican by nation, been able to curb, restrain, and direct the fury and pride of thirty millions of people, to fix a double bridle in the jaws of mighty France. In the midst of flames, darts, and daggers, he has founded and ascended an imperial throne, while thunders were bursting round his head and volcanoes beneath his feet. He now reigns triumphant over conspiracies at home or coalitions abroad.

Like the great heroes of antiquity, he has infused his own invincible spirit into his armies, which seem almost to rise out of the earth at the *stamp of his foot*. Let not Frenchmen complain of Bonaparte: he has done better for them than they could do for themselves; and has given them as good a government as they are capable of receiving.

There is but one power in Europe which can oppose any barrier to the crowning of his ambition : that is found in Great-Britain. The British have been growing powerful by sea for several ages. Their power, on the ocean, has at length become greater than that of any other nation. They are masters of the whole world of waters : and, in a regular course of events, they must first be conquered by sea, before they can be by land. At present the fleets of England are superior to all the fleets of Europe beside. But great revolutions despise regularity, and delight in surprising mankind with unforeseen events : and, in the revolution we have been considering, events have taken place, which evince the weakness of calculation or conjecture, and warn us to be prepared for great and sudden changes.

The eyes of Europe, nay of all nations, are now turned towards France and England. If we regard the passions, the motives, the interests and views of the parties, we cannot say less than that the struggle, which has already been long and fierce, is extreme and tremendous. Its issue, which involves great consequences, is still covered among the deep designs of the Almighty.

To an eye accustomed to view, in the affairs of nations, an overruling providence, the French emperor cannot be considered otherwise than as a special instrument of that providence, the full designs of which no creature can foresee. It is not improbable that one end of this great revolution is to punish christian nations for their astonishing wickedness and

ingratitude, under all their privileges, which they have spurned and trampled in the dust : and, of course, that the wheel will continue to roll till those whom God has marked out as the objects of his anger shall be sifted out and driven away before the rough wind of his indignation.

Infinite wisdom attaches less value and importance to states and empires than men do. To the all-seeing eye, an empire is but a bubble ; even all the nations of men are but as the dust of the balance....a thousand years are but as one day, and one day as a thousand years. That providence, whose wheels are high and dreadful, crushes, in a moment, the grandest of human institutions ; whose foundations were deeply laid and strongly fortified ; and whose superstructures have been rising and decorating for ages.

To those who place confidence in the truth and reality of revealed religion, the present seems a moment of peril and alarm to the old national establishments of Europe, whether civil or ecclesiastical. It is their almost universal belief that the time cannot be far distant when the Son of God is to put down all rule, and all authority and power, and set up his own kingdom throughout the world. Before this great event there must be changes and revolutions ; and the almighty Redeemer shall, in his own time and way, show who is the blessed and only potentate, the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Whatever may be the advantages and improvements of Europe, in its present state, (and they are many), we there see many reasons to deplore the fol-

ly....the depravity....the madness of our species. The life of man, when compared with endless duration, or even when viewed with relation to the important ends of his existence on earth, is very short. To see nations eagerly engaged in mutual destruction, laboring incessantly to push their fellow-creatures from the stage of action, is shocking beyond expression. Yet such seems to be the business of the principal powers of the most enlightened and civilized quarter of the globe. They surely are as forgetful of their duty and destiny, as they are mistaken in the pursuit of happiness. How ill-prepared are they to go from the crimes and horrors of the bloody field, into the presence of their final judge?

Is the tide of ruin and desolation never to cease? Are the dark ages returning, with redoubled horror, upon mankind—or shall light and peace break forth like the sun from behind a cloud?...

....."THOU only know'st—
 "Thou, whose broad eye the future and the past
 "Joins to the present, making one of three."

CHAPTER XI.

THE PRESENT STATE OF ASIA.

THE people of Asia may be considered under seven grand divisions. The Russians possess the northern, the Chinese the eastern, the Indians the south-eastern, the Persians the southern, the Arabians

Italy is conquered and provinciated. Germany, in fact, is dismembered ; or, if that is saying too much, she is a huge, disjointed, unwieldy body, incapable of vigorous defence. She can place no confidence in her best armies. Her government is without authority—her officers are traitors, and her soldiers cowards. An hundred thousand of them will stand still in their places and suffer themselves to be cut down. The millions of Germany, though naturally brave and warlike, will flee before the standard of Bonaparte; as grasshoppers, in a mown meadow, before the strides of a giant. It is time that Germany were conquered. When the army of any nation or state can conduct like the army of Mack, that nation or state is unworthy of independence : they are fit for nothing but to be enslaved....to be made the scullions of servants in the kitchens of their conquerors. One vigorous campaign would be sufficient to enrol Germany with Holland and Italy.

Sweden and Denmark, though so loudly warned by the fate of Poland, their neighbor and ally, yet follow her example, and are far advanced in her path. The motto of their government should be *pride* and *poverty*, and that of their people *ignorance* and *misery*. They can scarcely maintain their independence, though left entirely alone. They cannot resist the arms, nor have they much to allure the avarice of a conqueror ; which last consideration will probably be their shield.

Russia, from her local situation, cannot interfere effectually in the south of Europe. Her strength, though great, is like the *vis inertiae* of nature. She

has vast power of resistance, but is little disposed for a distant attack.

Prussia has no longer the great Frederic at her head. Her short-sighted policy and feeble counsels will soon restore her to her former insignificance; nor will she be thought worthy to hold the stirrup of the modern Cæsar. In the present eventful struggle which threatens the liberties of Europe, the conduct of the Prussian cabinet is matter of admiration to a distant, impartial spectator. Does Prussia possess and feel that reciprocity of condition which will enable her to share, with France, the empire of Europe? That surely is the languor of her conduct. She might have given weight to a coalition, but, when standing alone, a single campaign will make her an inconsiderable province of France. The ghost of Holland might say to her as the spectre did to Brutus, "we shall meet again at Philippi."

Spain and Portugal are independent only in idea, and on paper. Their sovereignty is substantially vested in France. For a century past they have been but the effigies of kingdoms: they have a name to live, and are dead. In the last stages of a lingering but irrecoverable decline, they exhibit one amongst many other proofs, that a nation may perish by far other means than those of war and conquest.

The western shores of Europe, from the mouth of the Elbe to the Straights of Gibraltar, are all under the power of France. From those Straights her power extends to the south point of Italy—from thence to the head of the gulph of Venice, and from thence to the Rhine and Elbe; comprehending Portugal, Spain,

the southwestern, the Turks the western, and the Tartars the central regions of this great division of the globe. Our view of Asia, though very brief, will be two-fold. We shall first direct the eye of the reader to these grand divisions separately, with an intention to notice some of the peculiarities of each ; and, secondly, we shall notice certain things in which they all agree, and shall close with remarks applicable to the whole.

I. RUSSIA IN ASIA.

Few governments in the world are more despotic than that of Russia ; and, for the last hundred years, that government has generally been in hands which managed its proper machinery with incredible skill and energy. From Petersburg, the royal residence, situated at the head of the gulph of Finland, this empire extends eastward to the amazing distance of several thousand miles, to the eastern ocean, or sea of Kamschatka. Yet, over so considerable a portion of the globe, the imperial mandates are spread with astonishing celerity, and are obeyed without murmurs or delays.

The Russians of Asia are of a more mild and amiable character than those of Europe. Their numerous tribes live in pleasant countries ; their towns and villages being situated in extensive plains, and on the banks of noble and majestic rivers. It is said there is scarce a hill of any considerable size from Petersburg to Pekin ; and through those vast plains many rivers meander in various directions. Some late geographers say there are no less than eight rivers which

run a course of two thousand miles. But the north of Asia, like that of Europe, still abounds in forests; many of which are of very great extent.

The people in those extensive countries are yet in a barbarous state, not very many degrees in advance of the savage. They have no point of union, nor combination, but what is found in the powerful arm of government. They speak many languages, and are of many different religions; for although the christian religion and the Greek church are established in the empire, yet most of the remote provinces are still pagans, or, indeed, have no settled notions of Deity, or forms of worship.

But notwithstanding many gloomy and forbidding circumstances in the condition of the Russian empire, it is probably improving faster than any other part of Asia; or, to speak more properly, it is improving in some small degree, which can scarcely be said of any other part of Asia. The people are becoming more agricultural....a regular commerce begins to awaken a spirit of enterprise....civility gains ground....the arts and sciences are spreading their benign influence in some very remote provinces. The great Catharine erected schools, and opened several missions in the provinces bordering on Kamschatka, and offered adequate encouragement to emigrants disposed to settle in those countries.

The vast plains of Russia facilitate land carriage, and her numerous large rivers render easy the transportation of their various commodities from one country or region to another.

As early as the 10th century, the Russians make some inconsiderable appearance in the histories of Europe. The capital of the empire is Moscow. There every monarch must be crowned before he can be acknowledged sovereign of all the Russias. But the empire was in a state of the utmost barbarity before the reign of Peter the great. No monarch of modern times, or, perhaps, of any age or nation, ever did more for his empire than Peter did for his. He condensed the resources of a multitude of tribes....he combined their strength in a regular plan of government....he put a stop to their incessant wars among themselves....he exterminated innumerable banditti of robbers, which infested, and fearlessly ravaged all those countries....he built cities, removed forests, caused the earth to be cultivated, settled the inhabitants of his empire in fixed places, and reclaimed them from the roving life and precarious subsistence of the Tartars.

Peter did more than all this. He did not encourage merely, but he originated the arts and sciences among his people. He built a city which, in less than a century, merited a place in the first rank of cities. To that city, he invited, from all parts of the world, the most able mechanics, and the most elegant artists, whom he encouraged with royal munificence. Not contented with a great army, and a most powerful land force, he determined to be known on the watery element. With this view he became a ship-carpenter, and worked with his own hands in the ship-yard : he studied the art of navigation, and practised that

art....he surveyed the shores and coasts of the Caspian sea, and drew, with his own hands, an elegant chart, which he presented to the museum at Paris : in short, he raised his empire to the first rank among the powers of the world.

There is something singular in the military character of the Russians. They are remarkable for passive valor. It is said they will endure the greatest fatigues and sufferings with patience and calmness. They will resist better than make an onset, though it is certain that very few nations in the world produce better soldiers than the Russians. They have had several considerable wars with the Turks and Persians, over both of whom they have gained great advantages. It has been thought they would expel the Turks out of Europe, and put a period to the Ottoman empire. Count Romanzow, in the reign of the great Catharine, defeated them in a series of battles....carried terror and conquest almost to the heart of the Turkish empire, and filled the world with the fame of his victories.

II. TURKS IN ASIA.

We have already noticed the history of the Turks ; but, in this place, it will be proper to regard them, a moment, as an Asiatic power : and, in so doing, we cannot avoid the reflection, how different the people in the east have fared from those in the west of Asia. In the east, the empire of China, like a majestic luminary, has shone in glory uneclipsed, and unrivalled for 3,000 years. In the west, the Assyrians, the Persians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Goths, the Saracens, and, at last, the Turks, have driven the plough-

share of destruction over the fairest provinces of the earth. To an eye or to a mind that can contemplate 3,000 years as we can a day, the people in the west of Asia must have appeared like a nest of serpents, incessantly striving to destroy one another : but the simile utterly fails ; for a nest of serpents, a den of tygers, the gloomy haunts where the deadliest monsters and dragons meet in concourse, are scenes of peace and friendship in comparison with those wretched countries.

After the wars of the Saracens and Crusaders had spent their rage in western Asia, the Turks, like an eruption of furies from the bottomless pit, overrun those countries. They established four independent kingdoms, whose capitals were Iconium, Bagdat, Aleppo, and Jerusalem. These institutions perished, after a while, in the furnace of their own vices ; and, from their ashes, the Ottoman Turks, about the beginning of the 13th century, arose, to complete the wretchedness of western Asia, in which their territories were much the same as were those of the Romans.

The remnant of the ancient inhabitants of those once flourishing countries are now miserable beyond the powers of description. It will suffice to say that they have no security of property or life. The petty tyrants, to whom the grand Seignior commits the governments of those provinces, exercise their vices and villanies without remorse and without restraint. In Thompson's and Volney's travels through Syria and Palestine, the character and condition of these wretched beings are fully described.

The Turks themselves are not a whit better off than the other inhabitants. They are equally subjected to a barbarous tyranny, liable to similar extortion and injustice. They have nothing they can call their own....no right....no property....no security. They are liable to be murdered at midnight by unknown messengers, and for crimes unknown; or they may be strangled at mid-day, in the midst of their friends and families, without any consciousness of guilt....without any form of trial; even without accusation or subsequent reason assigned. "Mystery" says one of the above writers, "reigns round their habitations." All is fear, concealment, melancholy, and distrust: they are forced to conceal their food and raiment....they dare not make any show of opulence; for the possession of wealth would work their ruin.

The Turks, considered in all the various traits of their character, are probably the most unlovely of all nations. Their character is dark, unsocial, jealous, cruel, and beastly, in its tranquil state. They are strongly addicted to the rough and violent passions; and when roused, their rage is vindictive, deadly, and horrid beyond expression.

The christians of Asia are generally in Turkey.— Their state is truly deplorable. They are literally trampled in the dust, and the vilest of mortals reign and triumph over them. They have but a name to live, and are dead. They generally subscribe to the tenets, or rather the superstitions of the Greek church—but have departed far from the standard of truth...and their

distance from the purity and simplicity of the gospel is immense. It is to be feared that they retain little more than the name of christianity.

The provinces of Turkey in Asia exhibit a melancholy proof of the changeable nature of all human affairs : they witness, to every observer, that the most flourishing institutions may decay and perish forever. Those countries were once rich, powerful, and happy. They were blessed with a mild and genial climate... they enjoyed freedom and prosperity...they were among the most enlightened and wise of the human race : but how changed is the scene ! Such of their advantages as a bad government could not destroy, nor a barbarous people annihilate, have become useless, or are altogether unknown. Their fertile fields have lain so long uncultivated that their fruitfulness is forgotten. Their fine harbors are visited by few sails except those of foreigners. The ruins of their ancient cities and temples are stupendous proofs of the opulence and glory of former ages, and of the degeneracy and wretchedness of the present times.

If the Turkish power, in Europe, is on the decline, which is not to be doubted, it is much more so in Asia. The connection between the parts of that extensive empire is growing more feeble, and evidently declines with the energy of government ; a disease natural to great empires, whose distant provinces, if powerful and rebellious, will bring more expense than profit to their masters—and, if weak and defenceless, will certainly not be worth defending.

The government of the Turkish empire bears some faint resemblance to the feudal system ; but, in one

important respect, perhaps more to that of the ancient Romans. The revenues of the provinces seem, some how, to be farmed out. Each bashaw, or superior lord, undertakes to pay such a sum annually into the public treasury : and he has such a province, district, or city allotted him, on which he is to levy that sum ; and, in fact, as much more as his ingenious and merciless avarice can lay hold of. If the province is large, this bashaw or bey commonly parcels it out, in the same manner, to his vassals. Every species of oppression and injustice....of cruelty and extortion is practised—and has been, for so long a time, that the whole country is completely ruined, and, though naturally rich, has become one of the poorest in the world. By these means, the Turkish empire is fast declining, and, by one vigorous effort of some neighboring power, might be overthrown. Thirty years ago, it was thought the Russians would accomplish it. It is now laid out as a part of the future task of the modern Cæsar.

III. ARABIANS.

We have already taken some notice of the origin and general history of the Arabians. A remarkable circumstance respecting them is, that they have never been conquered. For that, however, two very natural reasons may be assigned : first, they have never possessed much, which was worth conquering, or could allure a conqueror—and secondly, the situation of their country is eminently secure from invasion, especially considering their mode of defence. Their country, which is upwards of a thousand miles square, forms exactly the southwest part of Asia, as Spain does of

Europe ; and is commonly divided into three parts, viz. Arabia Petræa, Arabia Deserta, and Arabia Felix. Arabia Felix, or the Happy, is said to be one of the most delightful regions upon earth. The truth is, these flattering accounts are more frequently taken from legendary tales, than from real facts. In such parts of Arabia as are well watered, vegetation is, indeed, luxuriant beyond conception ; and some of the most valuable odors and choice perfumes are the produce of that country. The people generally live in tents, and, of course, their manner of life is roving, like that of the Tartars and Scythians. They obtain a precarious subsistence with little labor, and are addicted to every species of theft. They will receive you with kindness...entertain you with the utmost hospitality...divide with you their last loaf, and then increase their store by stealing from you all that you have. They seem to prefer not to take life, but, on any emergency, they will rob and murder.

Arabia has been governed, at times, by powerful monarchs, who have brought great and very effective armies into the field ; and various attempts have been made to subdue and explore that country by their powerful neighbors. Arabia Felix is, indeed, a sequestered country. It is skirted round on all sides by seas and sandy deserts ; and the nature of the country and the modes of fighting practised by the Arabs, have rendered it difficult and dangerous of access ; and it has been regarded as a kind of mysterious and forbidden ground.

The last attempt to conquer this country was made

by the Turks, commanded, if we mistake not, by Amurath II. about the year 1468. The haughty Turk, at the head of a great army, flushed with continual victory, advanced into Arabia, and determined to rend the veil which had long covered that country, and to know what was in it, and whether it was worth conquering. As he advanced towards the interior of the country, a herald, on horseback, met him, and warned him to retire, telling him that though the Arabians had no war with the Turks, yet, if he advanced further, he would have reason to repent of his temerity. The sultan treated the message with contempt, and pushed forward at the head of his army. At length there was perceived a cloud of dust arising, and, before the cause of it could be well discovered, his army was attacked by a formidable column of 40,000 horse. Their approach was like a whirlwind; and the Turks, already wearied with wading in the sand, were blinded and suffocated with dust, and were cut in pieces without much resistance. The sultan, mounted on a fleet horse, had the good fortune to make his escape, with a few of his guards, and recovered his own dominions; and being fully satisfied with one attempt upon Arabia, he chose rather to pocket his disgrace, than to retrieve his honor by hazarding a second attempt.

The Arabian horses are famous for strength and swiftness; and the men of that country are excellent horsemen. So great is their dexterity, that it is said they will throw forward their lances and recover them from the ground while on full speed. Their mode of

fighting is extremely desultory, and their military tactics peculiar to themselves : yet their attack is fierce and terrible, and can only be resisted by the most disciplined valor.

The Arabic language is said to be soft, liquid, and harmonious, by reason of an uncommon prevalence of vowel sounds. Notwithstanding the singular character of this people, they have not been destitute of science. During the dark ages, the Saracens were, perhaps, the most scientific people in the world. They introduced learning into Europe. Several of the sciences they improved ; and they justly claim the honor of being the inventors of algebra. In arithmetic we follow them generally, and especially in the use of their numeral characters.

It is both difficult and dangerous for Europeans to travel in that country. The hardships and perils to which they must be exposed, are very great—of course the present state of the country cannot be very well known. We shall close on this article with remarking how wonderfully fitted mankind are to sustain the inconveniences of all climates. The Bedouine Arabs, in large collections or hordes, at certain seasons of the year, will visit the sea-ports and commercial cities, for the purposes of bartering their commodities, and procuring such articles as they need. When this is done, they plunge again into the trackless regions of their native deserts, where they spend the year. But how they live, or what they subsist upon, that Being only knows, who clothes the grass of the field, and feeds the young ravens when they cry.

IV. PERSIANS.

The Persians alone, of all the ancient empires in the west of Asia, have preserved and perpetuated their existence as an independent nation. They were, indeed, conquered by Alexander, but that conquest, at last, terminated in the conquest of the Greeks themselves. The Persians became surprisingly renovated, and were able, on the decline of the Greeks, to resist the conquering arms of Rome, as well as those of the Scythians, Saracens, Turks, and Russians. In the year of Christ, 1750, the celebrated Thamas Kouli Khan ascended the Persian throne, and was one of the most powerful monarchs of his time. He invaded India—took Delhi, and returned to his own dominions, loaded with immense riches. No power baffled and defeated the Turks oftener than the Persians did; and Emir Hamzi, the famous Persian prince, was, doubtless, the greatest warrior in Asia during his time. Had he not been cruelly murdered, as was supposed, by the order of his unnatural father, he would probably have put a final stop to the progress of the Turkish arms,

The Persians, as a nation, are brave, polite, civil, and courteous to strangers; but extremely ostentatious, vainglorious, and proud. Their country, like Arabia, can boast of some most pleasant and delightful places. All travellers speak in raptures of the richness, luxuriance, and pleasantness of the vale of Shiras: but, in general, Persia is excessively dry, having few rivers or brooks, or springs of water. It is no easy matter to conceive how the inhabitants ob-

tain a sufficiency of water for necessary uses. They seldom have rain, and no country has a more aired atmosphere.

In very northern climates, dire necessity compels mankind to continual labor, to avoid perishing with cold and hunger. In the middle countries of the temperate zone, industry is partly necessary to subsistence ; but it is oftener prompted by honor and ambition. But as we approach the torrid zone the earth produces more spontaneously ; where it is fruitful it is abundantly so, and the people are able to live with little exertion. It is impossible that the inhabitants of hot climates, as, for instance, of Arabia and Persia, should exercise the laborious industry of England and Holland : and, of course, they are provided for without. It is, however, worthy of remark, and of gratitude to providence, that, in very hot climates, great industry is rewarded with great profit and advantage ; as in the cases of ancient Carthage and Egypt. If the people of southern climates, adapting their labors to the nature of their countries, would practise the industry of the north, empire, and independence, and glory would soon return to those countries they have long forsaken, and would certainly give a preference to their ancient seats.

To form a just estimate of any nation, it is necessary to look carefully into their internal as well as external state. Our views of the people of Asia, in these respects, must be imperfect and superficial at best. There is but little intercourse between the Persians and any nation of Europe. The wide differ-

ence in language, manners, religion, and government, sets bars between them very difficult to pass. We cannot but believe that the condition of the great body of the people in Persia is very miserable. The superstitions, absurdities, and even vices of their religion are extreme. Their government is cruel, capricious, and arbitrary. Many things are there sanctioned by custom, which, in any part of Europe, would fill mankind with horror and rage, if we except Turkey : and even the Turkish government is less despotic than the Persian.

People of fashion in this country are graceful in their persons ; and though their complexion is somewhat darker than that of the European nations, yet their countenances, rather Roman than Grecian, are expressive, and often display the most delicate lines of beauty. But the common people, who are much exposed to the sun, are considerably swarthy.

The Persians have neither greatly excelled, nor been greatly deficient in literature. The late justly celebrated Sir William Jones, the most skilful in Asiatic learning of any European of modern times, has given some elegant specimens of Persian poetry in English translation. They can, however, boast of no very great writers, either in poetry or prose. Notwithstanding all their attainments, they must be considered in the light of barbarians ; and it is difficult to say whether they are now emerging, or sinking deeper in ignorance and barbarity.

V. TARTARY.

The boundaries of Tartary have never been ascertained. The central regions of Asia, from time im-

memorial, have been inhabited by numerous tribes of roving people. They have rarely been combined under one head, although that event is supposed to have taken place in the 13th century, under the reign of Ghenghis Khan, and again in the 15th, under Tamerlane. These people were anciently called Scythians. Their character has been surprisingly uniform in all ages. During the time of the four great monarchies, whose history has been sketched in the first volume of this work, they were but too well known by their formidable irruptions into the civilized provinces of Asia and Europe ; the first of which was in the reign of Cyaxares I. king of Media.

Our best geographers state very little with certainty concerning the vast countries of Tartary. Traveling in those countries is difficult and dangerous ; and the nature of the intercourse kept up with them, by their more civilized neighbors, is not such as to draw very satisfactory intelligence from them. They may be regarded as fruitful sources of regret and sorrow. From various circumstances and known facts, it is not to be doubted that the middle parts of Asia equal, in richness and fertility, and especially in pleasantness and beauty, any part of that continent. Though vastly distant from the ocean, the countries are well watered. They extend almost the width of the temperate zone. They have numerous lakes, where numberless rivers and rivulets discharge their waters. There majestic rivers meander slowly through delightful and extensive plains. The verdure of an almost perpetual spring clothes their banks in perennial

bloom and sweetness. Yet those fair scenes seem formed only to be seen by the eye of savages—never to be enriched by handsome villages and flourishing cities ; or made the charming abodes of science, virtue, order, and humanity.

The Tartars, though not entire savages, are but a little better. They are intolerably slovenly in their persons and dress ; and they have no notion of cleanliness, taste, or order in their habitations. Their property consists chiefly in horses and cattle, of which some of them possess a great number. Their title to land is mere occupancy. When they have consumed the pastures of a particular place, they remove to some other. They claim no title to any place but what they possess for the time being. In some places, however, they have habitations more settled, and do even live in cities.

They seem to have no regular or consistent notions of religion or government. They commonly profess subjection to some chieftain, and, in time of war, or upon an excursion for rapine, follow his standard ; but, as to the nature of their civil government, or whether they have any, properly speaking, we are not prepared to say. They certainly have ideas of a distinction between right and wrong, on which they found certain maxims, resembling a code of morality ; but their penal code differs little from an indefinite rule of personal retaliation.

There seems to be no prospect of their improving in either of the three important articles of religion, government, or civilization. We think ourselves

warranted in saying that they have not improved, for the last two thousand years, in either of these respects.

VI. INDIA.

The river Indus gives name to nearly one quarter of the surface of the terraqueous globe. One of the great oceans....half the islands in the world....nearly a quarter of the continent of Asia, and all the original inhabitants of the new continent are called after it. The country of India forms the south part of Asia, as Russia does the north. North of it lies Tartary.... east and south the Pacific and Indian oceans, and west the empire of Persia.

The wealth of India has, in every age, been even proverbial. So great is the fame of its wealth, that when we hear its name pronounced we immediately think of a land of wealth. The riches of India consist in the natural fertility of the soil, which is heightened and perfected by the best of climates....the advantages of commerce and navigation....the greatest plenty of all the necessities, conveniences, and luxuries of life....rich mines....an abundance of gold, silver, and jewels; and a race of people who seem to be naturally virtuous, honest, pacific, ingenious, industrious, somewhat enterprising, and immensely numerous. In the course of their commerce, they are not fond of receiving the commodities of other nations in exchange for their own; they never pay money, nor make war upon other nations.

Exclusive of the internal trade of India, that country has, from the earliest ages, carried on two great branches of foreign commerce; one by land and the

other by sea. As from that country every thing valuable, beautiful, rich, or-useful was to be obtained, all commercial nations sought an interest in its trade. The Chinese, the Tartars, Persians, Arabians, Syrians, and Egyptians, traded with them by land ; and the numberless commodities of India were transported by numerous caravans, on the backs of camels, dromedaries, mules, and horses, to very distant nations. The wealth and glory of many ancient cities of Asia rose from this trade ; of which the splendid and magnificent city of Palmyra was once the grand mart and emporium. This city, situated between Arabia and Syria, bordering on the deserts, was once the deposit of the wealth of the east, from whence it was again dispersed through numerous channels to the west of Asia, to Europe, and Africa. This city, far more splendid, but less warlike than Rome itself, flourished for ages, and was at length destroyed by the emperor Aurelian. Its last monarch was the illustrious but unfortunate queen Zenobia, whose counsels were directed by the celebrated Longinus, as already noticed, one of the last luminaries of Grecian literature.

The Phœnicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, Cicilians, and Romans, and, in later times, the Italians and many other powers of Europe, have pursued the Indian trade by sea. Till the Portuguese had doubled the Cape of Good Hope, the common voyage to India was from the ports of the Red Sea, through the straits of Babelmandel, and across the Indian ocean. The majestic ruins of Palmyra demonstrate the former

greatness of her wealth and commercial importance : indeed, the same remark applies to the great cities of Egypt...to Tyre, Sidon, &c.

At present the naval commerce of India is almost engrossed by Great-Britain, whose subjects, tributaries, or allies, extending far up the river Ganges, are said to comprehend some of the fairest and richest parts of India. The British trade to India has become the most lucrative, important, and dignified system of commerce ever carried on. It cannot, indeed, be viewed without astonishment. The English people, by means of the South Sea and India companies, are able almost to command the wealth and credit of the globe.

The interior parts of India, especially beyond the Ganges, are but little known. It is a very great country, and, it is believed, somewhat more mountainous than the more northerly parts of Asia. The people of India, regarding the whole section of Asia called by their name, are probably among the most mild and pacific of all the human race. They never have been famous for war in any age. They have doubtless had wars, both foreign and domestic, and perhaps several which we have no knowledge of : they have several times been invaded, in different ages of the world, as it is said, by Sesostris, Semiramis, Cyrus, Alexander, Ghenghis Khan, Tamerlane, and, of late, by the Persians, under Thamas Kouli Khan. But the English invasion of India will be attended with the most serious consequences to that country ; and, it is feared, with little good. Their conquests com-

prehend nearly as great a territory and as many people as they possess in Europe. But if that conquest has increased the power of Great-Britain, it has produced a contrary effect on the unhappy Indians. It has quite altered the face of things in that country. The name of Hastings will descend to posterity blackened with indelible guilt and infamy ; and it would be well for the English people if Hastings were the only man who has been guilty of exercising cruelty, extortion, and outrage upon the defenceless Indians.

Hastings, after remaining long enough in power, in India, to amass a princely fortune—after practising the most hellish perfidy....the most horrid, outrageous cruelty, and every crime which can blacken and deform the human character, returned, in triumph, to his native country, to enjoy in quiet the spoils of innocence, and to riot in luxury on the fruits of extortion. A feint was made towards bringing him to justice : but what was the issue ? Instead of suffering an infamous death for crimes worthy of eternal perdition, his wealth enabled him to set justice at defiance....his infinite turpitude was gilded over with a title of nobility, and he became *lord Hastings*.

The English conquests in India will probably be attended with disastrous consequences to that country. The Indians will directly lose all motives to industry ; and, in addition to their own constitutional and national vices, they will learn those of their cruel conquerors and unjust oppressors. Industry and enterprise can only go hand in hand with liberty and justice. Those people, finding themselves oppressed,

insulted, crushed, and forever abandoned to hopeless slavery and misery, will give up all as lost....will become utterly useless to themselves and others, and will regard death as the only alternative of hope. The country will grow miserable and poor, and will follow the footsteps of Carthage, of Egypt, and of all western Asia. Trade will gradually fail, and the wealth and abundance of those countries exist only on the page of history. Should they change masters, they would still be the losers...should Great-Britain fall, even independence might revisit India too late. What advantage could Egypt or Syria reap from the fall of the Turkish empire? Nothing but the slow revolving wheel of numerous ages, or the more immediate intervention of almighty power, can restore those unhappy countries. Before any probable or natural course of events can restore the west of Asia to what it once was, it is probable the destiny of the earth itself will be complete, and the wheels of nature cease to move.

The Indian character and temper seem very mild and placid; yet no nation are more inveterate or more obstinate in their religious prejudices. With them religion is, properly speaking, the property and business of a particular class or set of people. The rest neither know, nor are allowed to know or care any thing about it. They have certain notions of Deity, of futurity, and of virtue and vice. The people at large are required to perform a certain routine of duties, consisting chiefly in useless formalities, and unmeaning or ridiculous ceremonies: but as to the

great business of intercourse with, or knowledge of the Deity, it is wrapped in mystery, and belongs to the priests or brahmins.

The immense country of India, from the river Indus to the eastern ocean, was probably never united under one government. Its present state is not clearly known to the best of our geographers. Monarchy is the only kind of government existing in any part of Asia; but, in India, it seems to be of a less fierce, cruel, and despotic nature than it is in the west. The most predominant crime among the Hindoos is said to be suicide. They have little fear of futurity, and are impatient of present evils: they therefore take, as they suppose, the directest way to get rid of them.

When shall they become free, enlightened, and happy? As far as we know, they rather degenerate than improve. In the time of Cyrus the great, they were more enterprising, and probably far more powerful than they now are. They made a formidable resistance to the conquering arms of Alexander; but now three or four British regiments will strike terror through India....subdue their most powerful princes, and levy contributions on their most opulent provinces.

VII. CHINA.

The Chinese are truly a wonderful people, and China, in various respects, is the most extraordinary empire that ever existed. Whether we regard length of duration, number of inhabitants, their uniformity, steady economy, and amazing industry, the world has never furnished a parallel to China.

According to the best accounts, which can be obtained on the subject, China has been a great and flourishing empire nearly 3,900 years. She has holden one steady and dignified course, while the nations in the west of Asia and Europe have been fluctuating like waves, and expiring like meteors in a troubled sky.

The accounts given of the population of China, though seeming'y credible, are perfectly astonishing. There are said to be above three hundred millions of people in that empire—of course more than one third of the inhabitants of the whole globe. But China possesses every advantage necessary to sustain a great population. Nearly as large as half Europe, her territories lie in the pleasantest part of the temperate zone, and abound in many of the most useful productions of the earth. China produces whatever might be expected from an excellent soil in the highest state of cultivation. Such is the unparalleled industry and diligence of this people, that their country, though more than 1,200 miles square, is all under the most advantageous improvement. They suffer no land to lie waste. Their steep side-hills and mountains, even to their summits, are tilled with as much care as we till our gardens. The very mild winters which prevail in the middle and southern parts, render their subsistence attainable with far less labor and expence. They have no need that their country should be half covered with forest to supply them with fuel.

The Chinese subsist more on farinaceous food than the Europeans. Their country produces vast quan-

tities of rice, which forms the chief article of their diet, and is a most nutritive and agreeable kind of food. Regularity of life, industry, subordination, and a particular cast of genius, form the discriminating traits in the Chinese character. In many nations, and especially in Europe, there is a certain unevenness of mind....an instability and eccentricity of character, which renders mankind fickle, rash, volatile, and often perfidious. The Chinese have less of this than any other nation. Their habits, customs, and modes of life are laid on such solid foundations, and have, for an uninterrupted course of nearly forty centuries, acquired a maturity and permanence which will be broken up only with their empire.

Europeans who have seen the interior parts of China, are astonished with the marks of their industry, which appear in every thing which strikes the eye. The vastness of their cities....their highways....their bridges of amazing form and construction, and especially their canals, exceed those of all nations. The country is peculiarly favorable for canals, and it is intersected and cut into almost numberless islands, by those beautiful, artificial rivers. Many of their vessels are a kind of floating houses which can carry sail, in which families live, are brought up, and transact all their business : and as many people live on the water as on the land.

The face of their country is formed by spacious plains, and regular, gently-elevated ridges, with some mountains. The suburbs of their great cities are formed by large and populous villages, and their vil-

lages overspread all the country ; so that you scarcely know what is city and what is country. The country at large resembles an unbounded continuity of flourishing towns and villages. Their style of building is not very superb ; yet, in the article of house-painting, no nation equals them. Their houses are covered with paint which appears like varnish or japan work, which gives them a glossy brightness, and will resist the sun and the weather. The internal structure of their houses is far inferior to those of our own country. But there are certain evils which, at times, result from their immense population. In spite of all their industry they are considerably liable to a scarcity of provision.

The people of China are divided into various orders, among which an invariable, absolute subordination reigns. These classes know, perfectly well, their rank, their privileges, and their duties. They seldom interfere with one another ; nor does any person rise to a higher rank, unless it is by some uncommon occurrence. The various orders of people are distinguished by the color and fashion of their dress ; and what is very remarkable, the dress of all ranks and orders is regulated by law.

The Chinese monarchy, though absolute, seems to be the mildest, and perhaps is the wisest in the world. It is in a great measure patriarchal. The sovereign is regarded as the father of his people : he consults their interest...endeavors to promote their happiness ; and they, in return, seldom resist his will. The Chinese government is extremely jealous of the powers

of Europe ; and with great reason. The late English embassy, conducted by lord Macartney, proved utterly useless. The emperor of China, after having graciously received, and for a while entertained the English ambassador, gave him a kind of tablet, on which was written certain moral and civil maxims of advice respecting the conduct of kings, and desired him to present it to his master, the king of England, as a token of his friendship.

The Chinese despise the idea of receiving improvements from other nations, and especially from Europe. In religion, government, art, and science, they adhere firmly to their ancient customs and maxims. Their religion is a mixture of superstition, idolatry, and certain moral maxims and rules drawn from the institutions of Confucius, their ancient law-giver.

The conduct of the Jesuits and other Romish missionaries was the means of closing and barring the doors of China against all christian nations. They were found to be interfering with the government and internal policy of that country, and, of course, were forever debarred all intercourse. That was a most unfortunate event, as it fixed in the minds of the Chinese a prejudice not soon to be wiped away.

VIII. ASIA IN GENERAL.

1. It is time we dismiss the consideration of particulars, and take a more general view of this noble and important quarter of the earth. The almighty Creator and Governor of the world has distinguished and dignified Asia above the other grand divisions of the globe, in various respects. Here the grand progeni-

tors of the human race began to people and replenish the earth. Here the delightful bowers of paradise diffused their fragrance and displayed their beauty.

Here the first empires were founded, and the first principles of social order and civil combination began their career. From this as from a central point the first families of the earth were spread abroad, and grew into nations and kingdoms: Here the mighty work of redemption was accomplished, by the incarnation and death of the Son of God, to bring about which was the ultimate design of creation and providence : and here was first set up that kingdom which was to endure throughout all generations, and which was finally to fill the earth with its glory.

2. As Asia is the largest of the grand divisions of the globe, so it, in general, possesses the most excellent soil, and the fairest and most regular climates. It produces, accordingly, every thing useful, valuable, rich, and beautiful. The most important and useful kinds of grain....all the precious metals....a great variety of most valuable jewels....the richest silks.... the most excellent drugs and medicines; and, in a word, all the necessities, and all the luxuries of life are there obtained in the richest abundance, and many of them with little labor or expence.

3. Asia seems to have been a region best adapted to the culture of the human species. We infer this from a remarkable fact, viz. that the savage nations of Europe, Africa, and America are, and have been in every age, far more savage, and sunk much deeper on the scale of reason than those of Asia: Indeed, it has

been affirmed by some, that a savage nation never existed in Asia. The Scythians and Tartars were nearest to a savage state: but how far, indeed, they were above that state in several important respects. Their skill and power in war has been far superior to the savages in the other quarters of the world. They had nearly conquered the Medes and Persians, and were always a terror to the Greeks and Romans. Their invasion was always conducted with a deep policy, and their battle was always terrible.

4. The Asiatics are generally of a milder and more pacific and amiable character than most other nations. This is very perceivable in the Russian empire, so soon as you pass out of Europe into Asia: you observe milder manners, and even a more soft and engaging countenance, together with far more hospitality, and urbanity of treatment. The Persians and Hindoos are graceful and elegant in their form, and their deportment is politely civil: indeed, Persia may, in some respects, be called the France of Asia. The ground we have taken in this article is justified by comparing the wars of Asia with those of the other parts of the world.

A few great conquerors in distant ages of the world have made considerable commotions in Asia. But, in regard of wars, when did Asia ever resemble Europe in the times of Alexander, Cæsar, Constantine, Charlemagne, Lewis IV. or Napoleon? When was Asia seen, to use a low phrase, *all by the ears*, as Europe has been for ten years past? Never—never, since men were upon the earth. Should it be

objected that they are pacific because they are ignorant, for heaven's sake, then, let all nations become ignorant as soon as possible. But that is not a fact. It is not owing to their ignorance. The governments of China, India, Persia, and Arabia know as well the state of their neighbors as those of Europe do.

But, according to the tenor of the above objection, it is much best for nations to be ignorant. If knowledge will set men to killing one another with diabolical rage and infernal malice ; yea, if it will make men, in this respect, worse than devils, it had better be let alone. Our Savior affirms that there is a degree of union in Satan's kingdom ; and a great poet rather improves upon the idea :—

“ Devil with devil damn'd firm concord hold—

“ Men only disagree of creatures rational.”

5. That the nations of Asia have never sunk so low into a savage state as many others, seems to be owing to their very great natural advantages, of which, if they had made a proper improvement, they might have risen to an astonishing height of learning, wisdom, and virtue. But here they have failed. On the soft bosom of luxury they have been hushed to a long and inglorious repose. Their eyes seem forever shut to all true and solid glory. They never once look up to that distant and lofty summit to which man may rise by energy...by perseverance, integrity, and virtue. They place the sum of happiness in rest—a most foolish and absurd philosophy, equally opposed to reason, virtue, and the nature of all intelligent beings.

6. Monarchy prevails every where in Asia, and that in its simplest form. It seems in vain to talk of natural advantages, when it is certain there is no nation in all this immense region which has any proper knowledge or use of its inherent rights. Natural rights may as well not exist, as to be neither known nor enjoyed; and such is the uniform condition of the people of Asia. If, in any case, the strictness and energy of despotism fail, it is not owing to the lenient influence of reason and virtue, but it is where government gives way to anarchy, and all principles of order fail before ignorance, vice, and barbarity.

Nor is man there more ignorant of his own rights, than he is of the true character of his Maker, and of his duty and obligation to him. There are still some christian churches in Asia, but, for the most part, they have little of christianity but the name. In contemplating Asia, we have before us a vast region of mental and moral darkness. There are few circumstances which look like the dawn of improvement; and, from all we can discover, this whole quarter of the globe is undergoing a gradual decline towards a state of barbarity. To this observation, however, Russia, certainly, if not China, forms an exception. It is highly questionable whether the increasing intercourse of Europeans with the eastern Asiatics is of any valuable tendency to the latter. The horrid wickedness on every occasion displayed by Europeans, has fixed in the minds of those nations invincible prejudices against their government, general character, and especially against their religion.

It is a melancholy reflection how little the conduct of christian nations has been calculated to recommend their religion to their unbelieving neighbors. Will heathens judge of the nature of christianity by the conduct of a few solitary individuals? or will they be more likely to draw their conclusions from the conduct of a nation? They will judge from the conduct of a nation, doubtless. What conclusion, then, must the Chinese, Indians, and Islanders draw, concerning the christian system, from the conduct of such Europeans as have visited their countries; as of the English, Dutch, Portuguese, &c.? They must conclude christianity to be a cloak for every species of villany...to be but another name for cruelty, injustice, dishonesty, intrigue, perfidy, and every crime that is atrocious and enormous: and of all religions in the world they must think it the worst.

It is not admirable that the missionaries, sent into those countries to preach the gospel, have met with impediments, and that their success has been small. It is rather astonishing that they ever, in one instance, got a candid and patient hearing. The Indians, especially, have a strong attachment to their own religion, handed down from their ancestors; and what reason they have to detest and abhor the people of Europe, is a matter notorious to the universe.

It seems to be matter of regret that the fair and spacious realms of Asia should lie, from age to age, void of intellectual culture—that the human mind should there be forever fettered by the absurdest superstitions, and inflated with error and falsehood, in-

stead of being expanded and enriched by the divine, immortal food of knowledge and virtue, drawn from the fountain of eternal perfection: but so it is. These things are governed by an unseen hand. The time may come when the face of the moral, and, of course, of the natural world shall be changed. When the wilderness and solitary place shall blossom like the rose....when all the families and nations of the earth shall be of one mind, and shall allay their thirst at the same pure fountain of heavenly wisdom.

The Indian shall then no longer adore the sun, nor think to wash away his moral pollutions in the stream of Ganges. The Abyssinian shall no more worship the father of waters; nor the arctic savage the genius of storms and darkness: but all nations shall adore one God...submit to his moral government...rejoice in his perfections, and trust his grace. May that time soon come—may the changes which must prepare its way be hastened, till HE shall come whose right it is to reign.

CHAPTER XII.

PRESENT STATE OF AFRICA.

THE continent of Africa is like a pyramid whose base is washed by the Mediterranean Sea—its western side by the Atlantic, and its eastern by the Indian Ocean; while its point, or apex, projects southwardly into the great South Sea. This vast peninsula is joined to Asia at its north-east corner by the isthmus

of Suez, about 60 miles over : it extends from 37 degrees north, to 34 degrees south latitude, and from about 17 west, to 51 degrees east longitude, and is 4,300 miles long, and 3,500 miles wide ; and is supposed to contain 8,506,208 square miles.

The commercial advantages of Africa, in point of local situation, may compare with those of the other quarters of the globe. Its proximity to the great oceans and their numberless islands, and its position with respect to the other continents, all declare its situation to be highly favorable for every interest of commerce. It lies in the bosom of the Atlantic, Southern, and Indian Oceans. Asia and the East-Indies stretch eastwardly of it, and are accessible either through the Indian Ocean or from the Red Sea, through the straits of Babelmandel. From the northern shores of Africa, all the Mediterranean lies in view ; nor was it a tedious voyage for the Africans to go in to the Black Sea ; and, from the straits of Gibfaltar, they coasted with ease along all the west of Europe, even to the Baltic or Norwegian seas.

If their commercial advantages are great, their agricultural are, or at least once were, if possible, still greater. All ancient history speaks in the highest terms of the extreme fertility of the lands of Africa. We cannot say in positive terms whether this fertility was universal ; but it undoubtedly was common to all the northern shores. It is at least possible that the continent of Africa was once as deeply clothed with vegetation as that of South America, though, indeed, not very probable. The continual action of an almost

vertical sun, for many ages, may have effected great changes in the nature of the soil. From many late observations, it appears that the sands of Africa have spread further north, and are making gradual encroachments on the fertile countries of Egypt and Barbary. Those countries, of course, grow more inhospitable, and more thinly inhabited.

Africa abounds in the precious metals, and in many valuable natural productions. It may be called the region of animal life, since there are more than double the number of species of animals in it, than there are in the other quarters of the globe. Egypt and Carthage were both, in their turn, great and powerful. The empire of science first rose in Egypt; and Carthage held a very doubtful contest with Rome for the empire of the world: but happy indeed it was for the world that that contest terminated as it did.

But whatever Africa could once boast—whatever may have been its natural advantages; it now presents to the eye of the traveller, one uniform, immense region of ignorance, vice, barbarity, and misery. If we enter that continent by the isthmus of Suez; Egypt first receives us; which, to speak in the true spirit and style of ancient prediction, is a *base kingdom*.—Still elevated by some faint glimmerings of civilization above the rude savage, the people there have just knowledge enough to render more conspicuous their depravity. They exhibit an astonishing specimen of the effects of bad government; and of the destructive tendency of corrupt morals. Perhaps no nation is more miserable than the Egyptians. They seem to

be crushed under every species of tyranny, and have no spirit left either to assert their rights, or avail themselves of any one advantage they have.

Proceeding from Egypt to the source of the Nile, among the mountains of Abyssinia, there is a change of prospect; but it is going only from bad to worse. The traveller has evidently made an advance towards that degradation of intellect which marks the mere savage. The people of Abyssinia are overwhelmed in vice, void of the cultivations of science: they are sunk too low to be susceptible of much government. They are, as a nation, a cruel, ignorant, vile, uncleanly race.

From Abyssinia, descending down the eastern shores of Africa, along the coast of Zanguebar, to Caffraria and the Cape of Good Hope, the prospect, as far as known to travellers, is nearly the same. The uniform gloom of the countenance denies expression to the noblest passions of the soul. The fallen forehead and projecting chin give even the intellectual region a resemblance to that of the canine species. The widely separated eyes....the woolly head....the enormously projecting lips and spreading nostrils heighten the terrors of the sable countenance, and, combined with other deformities of shape, denote at once the complete savage; or almost leave room to doubt whether the hideous form is a degraded link in the chain of intelligence, or a beast over which the hand of nature has thrown the semblance of humanity.

From the Cape of Good Hope, passing up the western shores of Africa, they are found no better than the eastern. The mental darkness of the nations

dwelling there seems but too truly depicted in the sooty blackness of the face ; and the depravity of the heart is no less displayed in their ferocious manners. In this western tour lies the coast of Guinea ; those countries where christian nations have carried on a traffic so highly honorable to their name and character—and where they have a town or fort, called *Christiansburgh*; a name wonderfully adapted to the nature of the business transacted there !

From the slave and gold coast, proceeding northward, the great rivers Gambia and Senega, or Senegal, are past, and the states of Barbary next receive the traveller, wearied with roving through scenes of barbarity, wretchedness, and darkness. Turning eastward, he passes the states of Barbary and Egypt, once fine and flourishing countries : but now what are they ? How low are they fallen !

The central parts of Africa are unknown. The *Zahara* is an immense region of sand, over which refreshing showers of rain never distil their copious blessings ; nor does the bow of heaven display its beauteous arch on the retiring cloud. There the verdant meadow, the flowery vale, and the waving forest are never seen : the tinkling rivulet is never heard ; nor does the murmuring brook invite the traveller to repose on its shady banks : but there the hot and sultry winds, in furious tornadoes, hurl the sandy billows to the heavens, and sport in fearful showers and storms of dust. Instead of the music of birds....instead of the sweet and solemn serenade of the nightingale, those gloomy deserts resound with the roar of lions and tygers....the

deadly hisses of serpents, and the horrid howlings of nameless dragons and frightful monsters. Those dreary climes have furnished a grave for a number of enterprising travellers. The expectations of the public were highly raised from the known abilities and daring spirit of the enterprising Mungo Park. Much information was expected from his travels in the interior of Africa ; but he has fallen a prey to the merciless barbarity of those faithless savages. Mungo Park deserves a monument among heroes, sages, and philosophers.

The northern shores of Africa, generally called the states of Barbary, are of the Mahometan religion. Ethiopia and Abyssinia have something which resembles, but very remotely, the christian. The middle and southern parts are pagan. As to government, the most complete and barbarous despotism reigns in every part of Africa. Though ancient Egypt may be regarded as the cradle of science, yet, in her maturity, she has long since forsaken every part of Africa, and left even Egypt to the gloomy and horrid reign of superstition, ignorance, and barbarity.

The middle and southern nations of Africa are utterly incapable of projecting or accomplishing any important enterprise. They spend their strength and exhaust their rage in petty, but cruel and exterminating wars upon each other. Their captives they either kill, and, it is said, devour, or sell to the very humane and merciful navigators of Europe and America ; who bring and sell them for slaves to the philanthropic republicans of the United States ! where they

are bought and sold, and treated with as little tenderness and mercy as brutes. How consonant this practice is to the rules of the christian religion, or of a free government, and how likely to inspire those unhappy beings with respect for the one or the other, let the impartial mind judge.

While unprincipled navigators are thus dragging the wretched Africans from one scene of misery to another still more lingering and dreadful, the northern shores of that continent produce a race of men far more hardy and daring ; who, as if to avenge the quarrel of their countrymen, are the enemies of all christian nations ; whose ships infest the seas, and whose robberies and piracies are dangerous to many nations. With regard to a proper mode of treatment of the Barbary powers, there seems to be but one alternative ; either their friendship must be purchased with frequent and great sums of money paid them, or they must be conquered and disenabled to continue their aggressions.

But with regard to the slave-trade, root and branch, first and last, in all its motives, measures, concomitants, and consequences, if ever any human undertaking merited the deepest abhorrence of men, and the heaviest curse of Almighty God, it is surely that. When we reflect on the pangs which those poor wretches must feel, who fall into the vortex of this infernal traffic—when they see themselves plunged into hopeless slavery, and where, if either they or their posterity should ever gain their freedom, still their color must sink them utterly below all consideration and respect, humanity must bleed for them.

The atrocity of the business is enhanced by the various, continual, and monstrous cruelties inflicted on them for the slightest faults ; and, indeed, can it be thought admirable, if their deplorable circumstances should often drive them into the most desperate crimes and outrageous misdemeanors ? The great and awful catastrophe of this perfidious commerce, is still among the events of futurity : for, let it not be considered as an idle and groundless surmise, the importation of slaves in such numbers, into this country, will, on some future day, affect the repose of the United States.

The continent of Africa has few rivers or mountains. The principal mountains are the Atlas, which gives name to the Atlantic ocean, Sierra Leona, and the mountains of the moon. The chief rivers are the Senegal, Gambia, Niger, and the Nile ; and there are few brooks and springs of water. A country, poorly watered, abounding with immense plains, which lie basking beneath a vertical sun, must be unfriendly to vegetation, and can merit no better appellation than that given to it by the Latin poet, "*Arida nutrix leonum.*"

At present, there is not a free government in Africa ; and, unless we can make an exception of Carthage, there never was one. There is not a civilized nation there, unless Egypt and the states of Barbary can be called such. And is their state growing better ? Alas ! what circumstance can take place—what event arise which shall ameliorate their condition ? Shall the progress of conquest open the way for any fortunate changes, or happy revolutions ? No : had they any thing which could invite an enlightened conqueror, yet who can

conquer, who can withstand or endure their climate? But they have nothing to allure a conqueror: they lie beyond the reach of conquest, and most of them even beyond the journies of fame. Shall the native force of their genius ever break their fetters? Shall a Cyrus, an Alexander, a Charlemagne, a Peter, a Washington, or a Bonaparte, ever arise and lead them to fame, independence, freedom, and happiness? Or shall they rise to that state by the slow and gradual progress of art and science? Alas! the flight of twenty centuries has extinguished all hopes of any change for the better. Their mental degradation has given their destiny a gloom as deep as that which the scorching heavens has spread over their complexion. Their actual state may be worse than it now is—their prospects cannot well be worse. Abandoned to themselves, they seem condemned forever to trace the dreary road which leads towards the extinction of intelligence, virtue, and happiness.

Shall they look for relief from the more prosperous, enlightened, and happy regions of the earth?... From Europe or America? Better would it be for them if they were separated from us by a wall as high as heaven. Do our vessels approach their shores but when allured by the hopes of surreptitious gain or promiscuous plunder? When they descry our sails on their seas, have they not reason to conclude that somebody is coming to cheat, to plunder, or to seize them, and carry them to a fate worse than death? And have they not reason to deprecate our visits—to detest our policy, religion, or rather irreligion, and government—

and to invoke the vengeance of heaven upon our name? Nothing have they to expect from more enlightened nations but chains, and stripes, and torments—but slavery, infamy, and misery.

It has been often alledged, in defence of the slave-trade, that the Africans who are brought among christian people, have thereby a chance given them to learn and embrace christianity. Hapless lot! The Father of spirits can, indeed, break through all their prejudices, and force conviction upon them. Almighty providence could save Jonah, even in a whale's belly: that same providence can certainly save a negro-slave from the southern states, or the West-Indies; so can that providence save the savage tribes who live on the banks of the Gambia and Niger. However many Africans are saved by means of being forced away from their native country, to a state of slavery among people who call themselves christians, their enslavers will be allowed but little merit in the day of retribution: that will be but a sorry plea in the light of infinite wisdom.

The man who justifies slavery upon this plea, let him put himself in the place of one of those ruthless children of misfortune. Let him imagine himself seized, perhaps in the night, and torn from all his friends, and all his heart held dear—bound and forced into a vessel loaded with wretches like himself—his tears answered with scorn...his cries for pity, with the bloody whip. If he does not perish with contagion, hunger, or cruelty on the voyage, he is landed at length and consigned to a master who drives him into his

fields to labor. He never more sees a friend : he never more hears from his relations he left : he never has a moment's freedom : his labors are incessant, but not for himself : his toils are perpetual, and that for the man he hates, and with reason : he bids an eternal adieu to contentment, to hope, and to enjoyment : he learns to brook insult only by repetition : his only remedy for pain is habit and endurance.

Had he even his liberty—had he every mental faculty, he is among a people who despise his nation, and abhor and detest his very color. And what was he brought among them for ?... That he might learn to be a christian ? No :—that his purchaser might grow rich by his extorted services. His only prospect is, that excessive toil will bring on disease or premature old age, when he will be suffered to die with neglect. In this situation an offer of salvation is made him if he will embrace the religion of the whites. Will he not be apt to think he stands on as good a footing as the whites, who can treat him thus ?

Too much, indeed, cannot be said in praise of the noble and benevolent exertions of many individuals to promote humanity, order, civility, and virtue among those unhappy nations. They have spared no pains or expence—they have even encountered the dangers of those inclement climes, and the perils of a barbarous land—they have showed their good will in this godlike work—they have done their duty, and they shall not lose their reward : they will doubtless meet the approbation of the almighty Father of heaven and earth :

Were the nations which bear the christian name ever engaged in this work....were they desirous to

imeliorate the condition of savage nations, they might, by a proper course of conduct, at length, remove those prejudices from their minds, which now form insuperable bars to the most benevolent attempts of individuals. Savages derive their views of the character, government, and religion of christian nations not from the testimony of a few individuals, but from the conduct of those nations. They reason thus : " if," say they, " christian nations believe and practise according to their religion, we are sure it is the worst in the world ; therefore we will not embrace it : but if christian nations do not practice according to their religion, it is surely because they do not believe in it ; and if they do not believe nor practise it, why should we ? why should it challenge our assent and conformity, who do not understand it, when those who do understand it disregard its dictates ?"

There is no certain evidence that the Africans are inferior to the Asiatics or Europeans in their natural make ; and it is highly probable that their mental powers are impaired only by their peculiar habits. We have already noticed the figure the people of Egypt and Carthage once made among the nations of the earth. The former were, for many ages, the oracles of science, and the latter were not only the greatest of the ancient commercial nations, but among the most warlike, having produced the second, if not the first great commander of antiquity.

Some attempt to prove, from the consideration of their color, that they are naturally inferior to white nations. Their color is merely the misfortune of their cli-

mate, arising from the heat of the sun and their way of life. Many talk about the mark set upon Cain, and suppose the Africans his descendants—never considering that the family of Cain perished in the deluge. The blackness of the Africans is perfectly well accounted for from the regular operation of natural causes ; * and their inferiority in various respects, from neglecting the proper use of those advantages which, in other quarters of the globe, have been improved with success.

Whether they are now at the ultimate point of depression, or are to sink still deeper, is known only to the Ruler of providence. It is impossible to reflect upon their present situation but with sensations of surprise, grief, and compassion.

Hapless children of men ! when shall light and order pervade the cheerless regions where you dwell ? What power shall heave the adamantine bars which secure the gates of your dungeon, and bring you forth ? When shall the cherub hope smile on you from heaven, and, with irresistible eloquence, call you to the pleasures of reason....to the delights of immortality ? In the natural course of events your destiny seems hopeless—no force of words can suitably describe or deplore your case ; and your only hope of relief is in Omnipotence itself. Your deliverer must be a being of almighty power, wisdom, and goodness. To that Being, then, let me commend you....to his favor....to his grace....to his everlasting mercy.

* See a learned and ingenious treatise on this subject, by the Rev. Dr. SMITH, President of Princeton College.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE PRESENT STATE OF AMERICA.

THIS important part of the globe claims no share of notice in tracing the great line of history. It is generally considered as unknown to the civilized world till discovered by Columbus, in 1492; yet, since that period, it has risen rapidly into consideration. Truly important by its vast extent, and the immensity of its natural wealth, in the comparatively short period of three centuries, it has been the theatre of a series of grand and interesting scenes.

America was discovered just after the revival of letters; a time when the public mind in Europe had been recently roused to action and enterprise. The discovery of so important an object formed an æra in the civilized world, by exciting desires and temptations....by rousing the latent fires of ambition....by giving birth to new schemes of policy and speculation; and by originating numberless projects and enterprises which often disturbed the repose of Europe, and terminated in wars and revolutions.

For an account of those things we must refer our readers to the histories of Europe; and we ardently wish it was in our power also to refer them to an able, impartial, and elegant history of our own country. In the following chapter, it will be our endeavor to present a general view of the present state of America, preparatory to which, a brief sketch will be given of its history since its first settlement.

The American continent extends from about 56 degrees south latitude to unknown regions about the arctic pole. Its length is more than ten thousand miles, and its mean breadth has never been ascertained, but would fall between two and four thousand miles. On the east it is washed by the Atlantic, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. This continent extends through all climates....comprehends every species of soil, and every conceivable line of geographical feature. It abounds in extensive and beautiful plains....majestic rivers....lofty mountains, and prodigious lakes. Its lakes are worthy of the respectable name of inland seas; and its rivers are many of them of such size, that, was it not for their rapid current and fresh water, they would be mistaken for bays and arms of the ocean. Its plains are clothed with luxuriant vegetation....its mountains rise with awful grandeur, pierce through the clouds, and seem to prop the skies.

The soil of America, if it has no certain claim to superiority, is, at least, equal to that of Spain, Italy, India, or China. In the United States, as far as we can remark on that article, there is no deficiency. The prodigious exports from several of the states, although in their infancy, is a proof that the country is made naturally fruitful and rich: and through the whole extensive chain of settlements from the coast of Labrador to Cape Horn, and from thence to California and Kamschatka, the countries are generally healthful.

Nature has thrown the American continent into two grand divisions, separated by the isthmus of Darien.

South America is distinguished by the size of its mountains and rivers. The Andes lie on the western coast of South America, and extend the whole length of that continent. These are the most extraordinary mountains in the world, whether we regard the length of their chain, the breadth of their base, or the elevated height of their summits. The elevation of Chimborazo is more than 20,000 feet above the level of the sea. They extend the whole length of South America; and, indeed, the Allegany mountains in North America, are thought to be a continuation of the same mountains, only interrupted by the Gulf of Mexico.

The rivers in South America are no less remarkable than the mountains. They rise in the eastern declivities of the Andes, down which they rush in numberless torrents and cataracts. From the foot of the Andes they must wander across the continent to the Atlantic Ocean, the distance of 2,000 miles. In this long course, which is increased by numerous meanders, they receive a multitude of streams, and, while yet at a great distance from the sea, their volume of water becomes majestic, broad, and deep. They roll on with increasing grandeur, and meet other rivers as large as themselves. Before they reach the ocean their channels are more than an hundred miles broad, and appear, as already said, like an arm of the sea: such are the Oronoke, the river of Plate, and the Amazon.

The mountains of North America are inferior to the Andes, as is every other mountain on earth; but

the rivers in the northern division are nearly equal with those of the south. The Mississippi, the Oregon, the Bourbon, and the St. Lawrence, pursue each a different direction, and reach their several oceans at the distance of 2,000 miles. But the chain of lakes in North America, to which the river St. Lawrence forms an outlet, has no parallel in any part of the world. The principal of these are Ontario, Erie, Michigan, Huron, and Superior. We may calculate that, at some future period, the country about those lakes will be settled, and they will afford a vast inland navigation of incalculable importance to that country.

In addition to the rich and productive soil of South America, the bowels of the earth are stored with precious metals. Mexico and Peru abound with the richest mines in the world. This, at first, rendered South America the most dazzling object in view of the powers of Europe : but the deep forests and more hardy climate of North America promised wealth only to persevering labor and industry. In event, the precious metals of the *south* have ruined the most powerful nation in Europe, while the labor and industry of the *north* have given existence to a new empire, which will shortly be able to set all Europe at defiance.

In glancing an eye at the natural advantages of the new continent, we must not forget to add, to the considerations of soil and climate, an immense sea-coast, numerous fine harbors, and an unequalled inland navigation, by means of rivers, bays, and lakes, comprising all the advantages of commerce.

Such was the new world discovered by Columbus. This continent, containing nearly half of the dry land of the globe, exclusive of islands, lies opposite and forms a balance or counterpoise to the old world. This great continent, when discovered by Columbus, was found inhabited by savages. The nations of Mexico and Peru were the most improved of them all ; but they were far less so than the Tartars and Scythians of Asia. These savages, in most parts of America, were thinly scattered over a wide country.

From whom these nations descended, or whence they came, is uncertain. Nothing conclusive is discoverable on that head from their oral histories and traditions—from their language, manners, or customs, or from any monument found in all the continent, or any other part of the world. Dr. ROBERTSON has conjectured on this subject with his usual elegance of style and manner ; and, with uncommon force of imagination, has constructed a bridge from Africa to South America, on which they might pass ; which bridge he has sunk by earthquakes, or worn away by the attrition of the Gulph Stream. In fact, it is of little consequence from whom the natives of this country were descended ; but, were it otherwise, conjectures and theories are vain and groundless. By reason of a total want of evidence, the subject rests in darkness.

The new world opened an inviting prospect from afar to myriads in Europe. They had no scruples of conscience in seizing upon a country inhabited by savages, whom they considered as having no more right to the land than the beasts of the forest. Thou-

sands flocked hither to escape poverty, oppression, and the various troubles of Europe. The Spaniards spread southwardly, allured by the rich mines of Peru and Mexico. They thought that mere land, especially a wilderness, was scarcely worthy of occupancy. We shall be very short on their history. They, under the command of Cortez, the Pizarros, and sundry other adventurers of most execrable memory, subdued the northern parts of South America. They slaughtered several millions of the harmless natives of those countries: they exhibited a scene of horror and cruelty which was doubtless never equalled on the old continent—showing themselves, on all occasions, to be a race of monsters in human shape, void of humanity, mercy, truth, or honor.

Their wickedness was too outrageous for the earth to bear, or the heavens to behold without a frown. The hand of providence has pursued them with various curses, and has smitten Spain itself with a consumption, and an irrecoverable decline, for allowing, indeed for perpetrating such horrible, enormous cruelties. The Spaniards soon acquired immense treasures of gold and silver, and became utterly paralyzed by wealth. They were wealthy only to benefit their more industrious neighbors; and they exhibit a striking proof that exorbitant wealth and luxury are but a feeble bulwark to national prosperity. Spain, in the early part of the 16th century, was the most powerful nation in Europe. Without any revolution...any considerable misfortunes by war, or otherwise, she has gradually become weak, and is scarcely an independ-

dent nation. Her provinces in South America are still weaker: they are not known but as wide regions inhabited by an ignorant, or by a savage race of people, as incapable of enjoying, as of obtaining independence.

It can scarcely be thought of without a smile, and surely ought not to be told in less pompous language than Homer uses to describe the battle of the *frogs and mice*, that one Miranda expected to conquer and revolutionize South America with two or three sloops of war, and about as many hundred men. A republic in New Spain would be a still more curious object than a republic in France. Miranda, before he plans a second expedition—before he becomes a second WASHINGTON, and erects a second *United States* in South America, should be advised to spend a few years in the school of common sense, where he should carefully study human nature. Had he known the difference between the British and Spanish colonies—had he judged rightly of men, of manners, of revolutions, and of the difficulty of originating governments, he would have thought it best to wait, at least, five hundred years, when things might have become more ripe for organizing his well-meant plan. If he must render his name immortal by any expedition, let him hire a flock of ganzas and invade the moon.* A conquest of that nature might enrol his name by that of Washington. He may find out, by consulting Gulliver, the directest road thither. And what is worthy of his notice, the ruthless brats of fortune who com-

* In which grand expedition, if he should fail, Col. Burr would, without doubt, succeed.

pose his army may, by that means, escape the gallows ; otherwise their unfeeling mother will abandon them to the fate of pirates, allowing him the unenvied honor of the highest gibbet.

The Spanish colonies in South America are not worth conquering. As to the matter of their strength, any effective force might subdue them : but the vastness of their country, and the nature of their climate, would be, to a northern army, more formidable than the Centaurs and Lapithæ ; and the people, when conquered, before they could be formed into a regular and energetic government, must have the same length of time allowed them that would be requisite for *an Ethiopian to change his skin, or a leopard his spots*. They are bound in vice, ignorance, and depravity, by chains as strong as the combined force of nature, habit, and accident can fabricate.

That there should arise in South America a free, independent, virtuous, happy, and glorious republic, is an object greatly desirable : but with regard to Miranda's descent upon that country, to effectuate so grand an object, without men...without money...without any rational ground of action, if we applaud his aim, we shall equally pity his pusillanimity and be surprised at his timidity ; and especially we shall blush that any of our good citizens should be weak and vain enough to meddle in the affair.

North America was destined to happier, at least to more ardent scenes of action. A tract of country, extending from Canada to Florida, and from the Atlantic Ocean to the river Mississippi, was located, and its eastern borders were settled chiefly by emigrants from

the British kingdoms. Though they came hither with raised expectations of the country, yet they found the most enterprising industry necessary to conquer the tall forests and subdue the face of the earth. The grand object of their wishes invited them to enjoyment through perils, labors, and incessant exertion. They ascended the hills of difficulty, and despaired not of the bright summit, though elevated and at a distance. They pushed the business of agriculture with nerve, resolution, and unexampled success. The forests melted away....the savages were awed to respectful peace....the country soon began to smile, and plainly indicated what a more distant day would bring forth.

If language fail in describing the bravery, the energy, the œconomy, the perseverance of our fathers, it will find it no easier to picture the industry, the virtue, the prudence, the fortitude of our mothers. They bore....they reared....they formed a race of heroes, who were cherished on bosoms expanded with every sentiment of truth, and warmed and enlivened by every noble and virtuous impulse. They could not but be great. They had not that artificial gloss which is derived from the smooth manners and gaudy splendor of courts, but they had that strength, firmness, expansion, and dignity of soul which virtue inspires, and which a consciousness of right can diffuse in a world of freedom, peace, and plenty.

The first settlers of the United States were daily strengthened by new adventurers, who fled, some indeed from justice, but far more generally from the

pride and cruelty of oppressive power. In about a century and an half the colonies were increased to thirteen in number—were spread far back from the sea, and had made considerable advances in commerce and manufactories. A hardy race had sprung up, who could not be trampled on with impunity; men jealous of their rights....industrious in peace, and undaunted in war.

At that time an unaccountable *mania* seized the British government to make exactions on our country, which were equally impolitic and unjust. From those exorbitant demands our intrepid countrymen turned with various sentiments of disgust, aversion, and abhorrence; and not without emotions of concern and sorrow at the idea of a rupture with our mother country. Our ideas of British aggressions might be suspected of prejudiced and partial views, were they not corroborated by their own people. The ablest statesmen and profoundest politicians in Great-Britain condemned the measures of their government, and foretold the consequences that would arise, and that ought to arise. Violent disputes ensued: they were propagated through the British dominions....and our cause was patronized by a great and respectable minority. Their ablest counsellors were divided, and a subject of such magnitude called forth the powers of reasoning, and roused the spirit of eloquence, which had slumbered since the times of Cicero.

But the British forum was not the only theatre of eloquence. In our infant country her powerful voice was heard. Men from the plough....from the shop....

from the counter, for a moment forsook their humble pursuits, and, obedient to the distressful call of their country, became, according to their merit, soldiers or statesmen.

After the perturbation and alarm of the first shock was a little past, it was perceived that the colonies would all unite, and pledge themselves for mutual support and defence. A solemn instrument was drawn up, which declared, in strong but temperate language, the independence and sovereignty of the United States. This was published on the fourth day of July, 1776—a day ever memorable to the people of this happy country.

The British government, than which no one was ever more disappointed or deceived, soon perceived that the contest was to be of a serious and eventful nature. The scene of action was distant....the necessary preparations expensive....every inch of ground was to be disputed ; the contest was sharp and bloody, and the issue doubtful. Impelled by interest, indignity, and pride of character, Great-Britain found it necessary to call forth her utmost resources. She therefore sent fleets and armies, and commenced a three-fold attack. She assailed our country at each extreme, and in the centre ; while, at the same time, she armed and impelled numerous nations of savages to fall upon us in the rear. With one army she descended upon our northern states, from Canada....with another she ravaged the southern states....with a third she struck at our centre, from New-York, the Hudson, and Delaware, while our extensive sea-coast was perpetually harassed by her victorious fleets : and our west-

ern frontier, from Canada to Georgia, was exposed to the inroads of myriads of fierce and hostile savages.

Divine providence determined we should surmount all the dangers and difficulties of so formidable a war, and establish our independence. A man was raised up to command our armies, who was able to make the best of our slender resources, and to supply their defect by his own immense and astonishing genius. GEORGE WASHINGTON, if any mortal man ever merited the appellation of *Father of his country*, surely merits that appellation. He, by the united voice of his country, lead our armies : he trained them to the art of war. He fixed their wavering resolution....confirmed their dubious virtue....inspired them with invincible courage....taught them to be cool, intrepid, and firm in every danger....to exercise the utmost fortitude in adversity, and to be temperate, magnanimous, mild, and merciful, in the moment of victory.

Washington will not suffer in a comparison with any commander, ancient or modern. If compared with Cyrus, the armies of the latter were numerous, and his enemies weak : it was not so with Washington. If compared with Alexander, the army of the latter had been trained by Philip, one of the greatest men of antiquity, and the Persians were utterly drowned in luxury. If compared with Hannibal, the latter had, perhaps, the bravest, most experienced, most impetuous and warlike troops upon earth : how far was that from being the case with Washington ? If compared with Julius Cæsar, the latter had the ablest, best-appointed, and most effective army which the resources

of Rome ever sent into the field. If compared with any of the greatest generals of modern times, as Gustavus Adolphus, Eugene, Marlborough, Condé, Tilly, Turenne, or even Bonaparte, their resources will be found to have been generally incomparably superior to his, and the difficulties they encountered as much inferior. Their armies were numerous....trained in the storms of war....hardened by marches, sieges, and battles....made crafty by ambuscades, wiles, and stratagems, and enabled, by long experience, to face every form of danger without fear. Their armies, in general, were amply fed, and clothed, and paid, and were completely officered by men thoroughly educated in military tactics.

However fruitful the American lands, and how numerous soever the natural advantages of the country might be, they were of a nature which required the exertions of all the people to realize and call them forth; and in proportion to the indispensable labors of the country, there was certainly an extreme paucity of hands to carry them on: few, therefore, could be well spared to bear arms. Our armies, which were small, were at first composed of men drawn from the bosom of a peaceful land. They were utterly unacquainted with war; yet, by hard labor, they had been rendered robust, vigorous, active, and capable of fatigue. It is not unworthy of notice and of admiration, that men, habituated to freedom bordering on licentiousness....tenacious of their rights, and jealous of their honor even to a punctilio, should so readily submit to military subordination and martial law. They

did, however, yield to steady discipline, and, in a short time, were formed into a regular army.

But in a scene of action so immense—in a conflict so varied...so long and severe, the United States were involved in difficulties extreme and dreadful. If we looked north, we beheld an army ready to rush like a torrent upon us, and sweep our country with the besom of destruction. At the southward our most fertile lands were desolated by another army still more formidable. Swarms of angry savages continually hovered upon our frontiers, where many of our unhappy citizens were destined to perish with the tomahawk in a midnight surprise ; and all about our sea-coasts and harbors the triumphant flag of our enemies was perpetually displayed. Agriculture failed for want of hands ; a scarcity of provisions ensued—commerce ceased, and we had no money. Our army, miserably clad, was threatened by famine for want of their pay, or with the dire alternative of plundering the country they were raised to defend—a country already made naked by exactions disproportioned to its resources.

At this eventful period, the column of our independence, so lately reared high, seemed to totter : but it was sustained by a few hands which omnipotence had rendered strong for that purpose. A few hands indeed ! For how unstable is popular opinion ! how ever-varying...how uncertain....how inconsistent....how fickle....how unsubstantial is a public passion ! No people on earth, (for it shall be spoken)—no people on earth were ever more firm...more enlightened...more consistent than the people of the United States, as a

body. But, alas ! what could they do ?...What could they think ? The people at large always judge acutely of present dangers : they feel the shock of calamities, and the stings of misfortune. When their fathers....their sons, and their brothers fall in battle, the sources of their grief are as wide, and their tears flow as freely as those of the statesman and hero. It was so with our people. Their souls were made up of courage and fortitude : but their information was limited....their views of the ground imperfect....the first paroxysms of enthusiastic zeal were past, and the flame of general patriotism was a little checked by chilling disasters.

It was a time of affliction....of grief....of terror, and alarm. Fear triumphed over hope, while the balance trembled in suspense, whose turn was to fix the fate of our country forever. In an hour so dark and trying, while huge calamities hung over us, we were in danger of being ensnared by the artful wiles of an exasperated foe. The British government issued a proclamation of grace, a general amnesty—from which none were excluded but HANCOCK and ADAMS, who were justly regarded as among the primary moving powers of the revolution. Every man in our country looked round himself for encouragement, support, and advice. The eyes of the people were turned on those men most remarkable for sagacity, wisdom, and integrity, and all eyes were directed with extreme solicitude to the general congress. That honorable body, at that day, was composed of men who could not be awed into submission by the voice of majesty, nor the

portentous menaces of sovereign power. They dared to brave the gathering tempest, and, at any hazard, were willing to rise or fall with the revolution. They could not be ensnared by fallacious hopes, nor beguiled by unmeaning professions and promises, however specious and dazzling. They listened to the British proclamation, as to the voice of a siren, and they could not think of purchasing peace with blood of their noblest patriots, but with a chill of horror.

It is not easy to conceive of the embarrassments, the dangers, and perils which attended that congress, which first embarked our political vessel on an ocean so stormy. They were obliged to brave the most threatening aspects of fortune, . . . to stand foremost in a doubtful contest. They were too well read in the history of nations not to know to what inevitable ruin they were exposed should the revolution fail. From the same sources they knew but too well the fickleness and caprice of the public mind. They saw and felt the miseries of their country already come, and dreaded others still impending,

While the people, with palpitating fears, looked up to their leaders—and while they, from New-Hampshire to Georgia, in serious and painful anxiety, looked away to the illustrious band of patriots assembled in congress—that body looked up to one man, as to a common father: all eyes were fixed on WASHINGTON. The British legions, at first, affected to despise him. . . . they were soon taught to dread him; and the country which he was called to defend, soon perceived that their confidence was not misplaced: they saw that he bore not the sword in vain.

There were several events which proved favorable to the revolution. At first, many men of enlightened minds were in doubt whether the proper time to separate from Great-Britain was come : others still felt the force of habitual respect for a nation so justly styled our mother country. Some, indeed, were, from education, from theory, and speculation, strongly attached to the ancient government of the country, and dreaded the violent paroxisms of rage, of zeal, and of party views, to which we must be exposed in dissolving connexion with Britain....reverting into a state of native anarchy—and thence rising to order under a new—an untried form of government, to be made....to be organized, and set in motion by ourselves.

Many, and with great justness, dreaded a series of bloody revolutions....and, after all, a disgraceful return to the goal from whence we started. They expected we should be humbled, scourged, desolated, and ruined in war, and then return to our allegiance with shame, disgrace, and eternal contempt, and submit, voluntarily, to have our fetters rivetted, and our destiny fixed in servitude : for an unsuccessful attempt at liberty, may always be regarded as a deadly plunge into hopeless slavery.

Several persons of these descriptions were scattered through the continent : but, fortunately for us, their numbers soon greatly diminished. When they saw the revolution had actually taken form, and was likely, at least, to be strenuously contested....when they saw the thirteen states, as a body, combined, and solemnly pledged to defend the cause, they generally

yielded the point, and even determined to sink or swim with their brethren.

In enumerating the causes which operated in our favor, we cannot avoid noticing the unskilful measures employed by the British government, to bring us back to our duty, from a state of revolt. A medium between two extremes is often the proper course to pursue ; but to them it was certainly most improper, as it proved most unsuccessful. They should have been either far more energetic, more decisive, and more severe, or far more lenient, mild, and gentle : in either of those extremes, there was a possibility of their succeeding. They, in the first instance, were certainly the aggressors. Their ablest politicians and firmest patriots confessed it, and urged it as a reason why they should seek to restore union and tranquillity by concession, indulgence, and lenity. But that was too mortifying to their pride and ambition : they disdained the idea of the slightest concession, and determined to do all by austerity, menace, and compulsion. They should have organized a course of measures, suitable to the complexion of a policy so self-sufficient, and of an attitude so haughty and commanding.

But they vainly imagined that a regular army of three or four thousand men would directly awe us into submission. They tried it, and found out their mistake....when, by a strong concurrence of events, it was too late. The firmness, union, and bravery of the people of the United States, saved them from falling an immediate prey to their enemies ; but it is doubtful to what extent their calamities would have

risen, but for the operation of two powerful causes, which cannot be passed unnoticed.

The aid of France was timely, and was necessary. We shall not meddle with the question of equity. We shall not say, nor is it in the power of any being, but of HIM who views actions in all their relations, and traces all effects to their first cause, to say how far their interference was conformable to the eternal rules of justice. As things have turned, our revolution cannot be considered but as a source of misfortunes to them. The enmity, jealousy, and rivalry subsisting between France and England, are things well known to most persons who have eyes and ears. Their mutual animosities have embroiled Europe for the last five hundred years.

The rapid growth and vast resources of the British colonies rendered their separation from England, of all possible objects, the most ardently to be wished, and the most strenuously to be sought for by France. In espousing our cause, they aimed a deadly blow at Great-Britain : it is not, therefore, at all admirable, that they should entertain so strong a sense of the *justice* of our cause, when our success was likely to diminish the resources of their most formidable rival, and pluck one of the brightest gems from the British crown. With the most cordial *fellow-feeling*, therefore, they espoused our contest and made it their own : nor should the pen of the historian be so ungrateful as not to “speak well of the bridge that carried us safe over.”

A war between France and England divided the attention and resources of the latter, and rendered the

reduction of the colonies the least article in their grand dispute ; which extended itself into both hemispheres, and ultimately awakened all the energies of the conflicting powers : we were certainly benefitted; probably saved from subjugation thereby.

But all the aid we received, or could have received from France, would have been unavailing, had not providence raised up a man to head our armies, every way fitted for that important trust. When we say *every way fitted*, we mean much more than is commonly intended by that expression. He seemed to be, in all respects, exactly such a personage as was indispensable to our cause.

It is remarkable that in the course of the war two entire British armies were captured. The capture of Burgoyne revived the spirits and animated the hopes of the Americans, and seemed to put a new face upon affairs ; and that of Cornwallis terminated the war. The reduction of the states, from the time of that event, was considered as impracticable.

If the union of the states, in the revolutionary war, may be considered as an evidence of their wisdom, foresight, and patriotism, their union in a matter of equal magnitude, since that time, is no less remarkable :—when the first articles of confederation, established as the basis of our political fabric, were found inadequate to that grand purpose, the states a second time cordially united in a plan of government, recommended to them by a general convention. This second union, especially, disappointed the hopes of the enemies of our country, and falsified their numerous

and vehement predictions that we should disagree, dispute, quarrel, and dash in pieces on that dangerous rock.

The course of events since the adoption of the federal government is well known. Regarding our entire history....our progress in our colonial relation to Britain....our emancipation from foreign domination our union in two grand movements, so improbable, and yet so necessary—in short, regarding our past and present state, and our future prospects, we must be pronounced a fortunate, prosperous, and happy people.

In giving a succinct view of the present state of the new world, we shall consider it under four divisions, viz. British and Spanish America, the United States, and the savage nations.

1. What was designed to be noticed of Spanish America has been nearly anticipated. The immense provinces they possess in the new world, lie generally in a wilderness state. Their application to agriculture in those extensive countries has been trifling, and the people who claim the civilized rank are mere Spaniards, and that of the lowest grade. Their population is inconsiderable when compared with the lands they claim: they make no figure in war....they are nothing in the arts and sciences....they can scarcely boast of one illustrious character; and there seems not to exist one single fact, trait, or circumstance to veil the sterility of their mental soil....the total want of intellectual culture, or to enlighten and adorn the pages of their history. On the whole, it shall suffice to close

our observations on Spanish America, by noting to the reader that the splendid and eloquent pen of Dr. Robertson has given an ideal importance to the history of that country, which makes it abundantly worth reading—truth and facts being entirely out of the question. To his history, therefore, the reader is referred.

2. The possessions of Great-Britain in North America, commonly called British America, are comprised in a section of that continent north of the United States, and commence about the 45th degree of north latitude. They are bounded east by the Atlantic ocean—south partly by the United States, and they seem to run west and north indefinitely, or till met by circumjacent seas. Neither the Canadas, Nova-Scotia, or New-Brunswick, can very soon become objects of very great importance. Regions so remote—so cold and inhospitable, can never awaken the spirit of emigration; nor will the natural progress of population be very rapid. Perhaps, should the world remain in its present form for twenty or thirty centuries, those provinces may become populous, in some measure, by means of a change of climate. It is a remarkable fact that the climate, in the New-England states, has been observed to change materially within the last 50, nay 30 years. As the forests are cleared away, and the face of the ground laid open, should the climate continue to change, the two continents may at length become upon a par as to temperature.

The revenue which Great-Britain derives from her colonies is of some value; but the state of those colonies, generally speaking, is barbarous, wild, and unin-

viting, in the extreme. Great countries....a thin population sprinkled over their margin....boundless forests....long and dreary winters....a frightful solitude....howling savages, and a remote seclusion from the world of civility and order, are objects which appal all but the robust and hardy children of misfortune. Some, indeed, will go thither to make, and some to repair their ruined fortunes—some to repair, and some to form their characters.

What corner of the earth is so remote—what region so forbidding, that the sons of *mammon* will not visit it in quest of gain? What ocean, straight, or river will they not explore—what form of danger will they not encounter—what death will they not despise, when the hope of gain is thrown into the adverse scale? They will dive into the bowels of the earth....they will traverse the wildest, the most dangerous deserts....they will encounter the eternal frosts of either pole....they will laugh at the storms of the wintry seas, or the burning showers of equatorial sand, when allured by wealth.

From the nature of the provinces in British America, their population must be very slow: they must long remain feeble....of course, they must long be subject to, and dependant on their mother country: nor is it likely they will ever form an independent government. Should they revolt from Britain, they would naturally fall to their far more powerful and prosperous neighbors, the United States....an event, however, as undesirable to us, as it would be to Great-Britain. Let us, in all conscience, be satisfied with the territo-

rise we have, at least for the ensuing five hundred years. When we shall have fully experienced the arduous difficulties of supporting a frame of government over a territory twelve hundred miles square, we shall neither wish to purchase...to conquer, nor to receive, even by free donation, an additional territory.

At the close of the late war, many of the loyalists, in the true spirit of national gratitude, were rewarded for their fidelity to Britain, with possessions in Nova Scotia. After a short residence in that dreary country, they found themselves exiled from a happier world. They grew discontented, and numbers of them returned to the United States, and were glad to take up their abode among a people upon whom they had, some time before, turned their backs with utter contempt and disgust. Whoever is acquainted with the course of human affairs, knows that it is as dangerous to oppose a revolution which succeeds, as it is to join with one which fails.

3. We come now to give a sketch of the present state of the United States.

NAME.

The new world has been peculiarly unfortunate, in all respects, as it relates to the matter of a name. In the first place, it should have been called *Columbia*—a name which yields to none in point of dignity, harmony, and convenience. The word *Columbia*, in its very sound, is grave, and proper for history...it is dignified and adapted to oratory...it is full, smooth, and harmonious, and is unrivalled in poetry. In its very orthography, it is perfectly neat, convenient, and agreeable....neither too short nor too long.

That the new continent should be called *America*, after Americus Vesputius, was the greatest act of folly, caprice, cruelty, and injustice of the kind, that ever mankind were guilty of. To deprive Columbus of that honor which he so justly merited—to bestow it upon one who had no sort of title to it—to violate at once justice, propriety, and harmony, by rejecting a name which that of no nation ever excelled, and substituting a name which sounds but indifferently in prose, and is absolutely intolerable in every possible species of poetry, is an enormity of caprice and folly which cannot be thought of with any degree of patience. It will forever be regretted by every reflecting mind. Indeed, the name of Columbia will always reign in poetry, and in the pathetic and sublime of prose. It will probably gain ground upon its spurious, upstart rival, and it may in a good measure supplant it.

Since the continent has acquired another name, it would have been highly proper to have called the United States *Columbia*. Though but a part of the continent, yet it is a part respectable for size, and will, for many ages, remain by far the most important part of the new world.

Two favorable moments have past, in either of which, and especially in the latter, it is believed that a name might have been given to the United States. Accompanying the declaration of independence, or the promulgation of the federal constitution, an appropriate name would probably have taken with the people, and have gone down, firmly fixed, to posterity.

When another time equally favorable will arrive, is uncertain. There are serious and urgent reasons why the United States should have a name. Whether that name shall be proposed by congress....by the universities....by the legislatures of several states; or by individuals, is of little consequence, provided the name is a good one, and meets with acceptance. It might be made an object of legislative provision. The power of determining upon a name might be vested in the heads of the several universities; or it might be done by the concurrence of the majority of the several states by their legislatures, or by the nomination of individuals.

How nations acquired their names, is one of the most intricate and obscure questions in history. In most instances, it has probably been by causes as blind, unmeaning, and confused, as the revolutions, impulses, and energies of chaos. No name was ever more unlucky, absurd, or unjust, than that of the new continent; nor is it to be hoped that the United States will ever obtain a name in a more rational way. Indeed, some determined *patriot*, so strongly fortified in self-importance as to be able to brave the laughter of fools....the contempt of the wise....the arrows of the satyr, and the derision of the proud, may possibly suggest a name, which, availing itself of the prejudices and follies of mankind, may force itself upon the world.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture forms the most important interest of the United States. The people may be said to be

an agricultural people. Their natural advantages, in regard of that object, certainly equal those of any nation on earth. Their territories include the best climates in the temperate zone; and, since the addition of Louisiana, they extend, perhaps, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. But if we consider the lakes, the Atlantic, and the Mississippi as our boundaries, there is a vast country of arable land, including every possible variety of excellence, with few wastes or barrens. We seem to fall behind no quarter of the globe but in the precious metals and jewels. Our lands equal those of Egypt, Assyria, India, or China.

The people of the United States seem well fitted to avail themselves of these advantages. They are generally strong, robust, active, and ambitious, and are actuated by a greater desire to acquire a neat, competent, independent style of living than any nation ever known. They value no labors; hardships, enterprises, fatigues, and even dangers are encountered with pleasure, in view of that honorable independence which is fairly within their reach. They grasp after it with eagerness....they pursue it with diligence, and they seldom fail.

The domestic history of a young farmer, in this country, cannot be read but with a kind of romantic pleasure, such as a poetic fancy feels in reading the fictions of the golden age. He early unites his fortunes and destiny with those of some rural nymph, whose virtue, kindness, prudence, and industry are sure to dignify the raptures of passion into the bright sunshine of lasting benevolence and esteem. They

have no property—the new countries invite them, and they go thither, animated with the most laudable and cheering prospects. By a few years' labor, which they pass through with resolution, cheerfulness, and hope, they acquire a competence....frequently wealth. Their children, which are generally numerous, are trained up in habits of industry, economy, and virtue. They settle around their parents, and form a little society of most endearing friendship. They live in love and peace; and are prosperous and happy.

This country has populated with unexampled rapidity. Since the close of the revolutionary war, the western line of settlements extending from Canada to Georgia has been moving westward, along the course of the great rivers which lead to the Mississippi, and in the bosom of those rich countries where the produce of the earth rewards the laborer an hundred fold.

While every art and science is cultivated, that of agriculture is by no means neglected. The different modes of subduing and cultivating the earth have, latterly especially, engaged the attention of men of opulence and leisure. Agricultural societies have been formed—valuable essays and publications have been diffused over our country, and the most important improvements have been brought from Europe, and practised with success. Too much praise can scarcely be bestowed on those enterprising men who have published and diffused several important dictionaries of arts and sciences, particularly the Encyclopædia. From them the most useful information has been and may still be drawn.

In the agriculture of this country much is still to be done : many improvements are still to be made. We cannot but observe, with regret and concern, that many farmers entirely overlook the grand object where their true interest centers. They blindly follow the footsteps of their fathers and ancestors, without deriving any benefit from reflection, enquiry, advice, or experiment. They never once dream that husbandry, of all arts, is the most improvable.

In our country there is a scarcity of hands to labor : whatever improvement, therefore, diminishes the quantity, or increases the effects of hard labor, must be valuable. It is a prevailing fault that our farmers, in but few instances, consult the nature and character of their farms, and regulate their tillage accordingly. They do not consider whether they are more proper for grazing or for grain. They are determined entirely by accident or tradition in the choice of the grasses, or the grain they will raise. They pay little attention to the selection of seed—an article of prime importance in every species of crop. They are equally negligent of the breed of their cattle, horses, and especially of their sheep. Many things of this nature, in the farmer's art, may be attended to with little expense : attention only seems to be requisite, and of that kind which might serve as matter of amusement.

The greatest general fault observable in the agriculture of the United States is, what might be expected from the fewness of laborers, an imperfect, slight, and feeble tillage of too much land. It might, in a measure, be remedied : if a much greater attention

were paid to the cultivation of various species of grass, and to the rearing of stock, far less labor would be requisite in tillage ; while, at the same time, the farmer's revenue would be increased, and a smaller portion of his plough-lands being put into a much higher state of cultivation, would yield him a much greater quantity of grain. Where he now obtains two hundred bushels of grain from twenty acres, he might then obtain the same quantity from five acres.

The agricultural interest of this country is endangered from another quarter. An immense influx of foreign luxuries, and a taste for high living, seriously threaten the industry and habits of labor, prevalent among the middle classes of people. It may be said, indeed, that to purchase these luxuries, farmers must be industrious : It is a far more practical truth, that to use them does by no means consist with economy, and is absolutely incompatible with industry.

The middle and northern states, especially the latter, are cultivated by the very people who own the lands : each farmer does his own labor : he not only superintends, but leads in his fields—and does much of the work with his own hands. During the intervals of labor he reads the news-papers....talks politics, and becomes, at least in his own estimation, a profound statesman. It must, indeed, be confessed, that no class of laborers on earth are so well-informed as the New-England farmers. They are generally well versed in the circulating politics of the day—most of them having news-papers enough in their houses to paper all their rooms.

COMMERCE.

The commerce of the United States is both great and growing. Their advantages in this respect are not inferior to those of agriculture. A vast sea-coast, indented with almost innumerable good harbors....a multitude of navigable rivers....a country abounding with articles of high demand for exportation....with every thing necessary to ship-building, and as bold, hardy, and enterprising a race of men as ever braved the dangers of the sea, all bid fair for commerce. We have already become one of the most commercial people in the world, and, it is thought, second to none but Great-Britain.

Our advantages for commerce arise from the following considerations :

1. An extensive sea-coast. From New-Hampshire to Georgia inclusive, considering the windings of the coast, is more than 2,000 miles. This whole coast is indented with good harbors. Many of them have already become places of considerable trade ; and many more are susceptible of the same advantages—and must rapidly rise into consideration, through the enterprise of the adjacent country. Some of our sea-ports have already become great. There is probably no city on the globe which is now advancing with such rapid strides towards greatness, as New-York. She is fast rising into the first rank of cities. Situated at the mouth of a noble and beautiful river, down whose gentle current the wealth of an opulent country is wafted by nearly two thousand vessels, she trades with all parts of the world, and her ships are seen in every ocean.

2. The United States are prodigiously intersected and almost insulated by large rivers. By a few carrying places, which, at no very distant day, will probably be converted into canals, our whole country may be actually divided into several large islands. Those immense rivers whose waters fall into the bay of Mexico, in some of their branches, extend nearly to the great lakes which form our northern line, or almost interlock with streams which fall into those lakes.— One can scarcely glance an eye at the map of this country, without being surprised at the vast extent and facility of our inland navigation. This subject will attract more attention, and excite more admiration progressively as the body of population shall move westward, and those forests, which now shade one of the most fertile countries in the world, shall be cleared away.

3. The third remarkable trait favorable to our commerce is a vast profusion of materials for ship-building. Masts, timber, plank, iron, flax, hemp, pitch, &c. are easily obtained in all parts—if not of the very best kind, yet of quality fit for use. In proof of this, our trading vessels are yearly increasing in a geometrical ratio. It is not to be concealed, indeed, that we import some of these materials from other countries; which only shows that we have additional resources.

4. The produce of our country forms the real basis of our commerce. To enumerate the articles we export, and receive in return, from other nations, would fill many pages. The secret springs...the labors...the tortuous windings of commercial enterprise open an

immense field of speculation. Our ports are visited by the ships of numerous nations, who find also their own interest in our trade.

8. The character and temper of our people are well adapted to commerce. No people are more eager in pursuit of wealth. In this, their favorite object, they are often led too far : it is thought by some to be the foible in their national character. They seem often to act as though the wise man had not said "*In all thy gettings, get understanding ;*" but *in all thy gettings, get RICHES.*

LITERATURE.

It is hoped that the foreigner, into whose hands this book may fall, will not too hastily judge that the Author is attempting to eulogize his native country. We are willing he should set down liberally to the account of national attachment ; but it is our professed intention to state simple facts.

Regarding the literature of the United States as one entire object—judging impartially, and deciding with severity, we are compelled to say that it is on a footing not only favorable, but highly flattering to the present and rising generation. We shall here repeat an observation which has indeed often been made, but which, if true, cannot be made too often, nor dwelt upon too long : it is that the lower class of people in this country are better informed than the same class in any other country in the world. This observation applies with peculiar force to the northern states.

That can be said of the United States which cannot be said of any other nation, viz. that all our citi-

men are, by some means or other, placed within the reach of a good education. Those whose advantages are worst, can scarcely be excluded from this rule, and, in general, it applies with certainty and strength.

In some of the states, schools are made a public expence, and are supported by a regular assessment and tax. Every man pays, not according to the number of his children, but according to the value of his estate. It is greatly to be lamented that this is not universally the case. It can be viewed in no other light than as the firmest pillar of national liberty, prosperity, and happiness. The ignorance of the common people is the certain prelude to their poverty and slavery.

The surprising difference between the people of those states who have long felt the benign influence of these institutions, and others, speaks more loudly on this subject, and paints it in stronger colors than are within the reach of tongues or pencils. But even in those states where education is not made the object of legislative provision, industry and frugality can seldom fail to procure the means of a competent education. Where those means appear to be most wanting, that defect is obviously the result of criminal negligence in the people; and can neither be ascribed, in any degree, to their necessary penury, nor the spirit of their government.

Throughout every part of the United States there are, or may, and probably will be such schools as will lay a broad and respectable foundation for the in-

struction of the great body of the people. How happy would it be if every state would establish schools by law ! In many instances it would rescue the poor from ignorance....it would ultimately rescue the country itself from those consequences which every virtuous republican ought most to dread and deplore.

A material defect in our present system of education is observable in the neglect which too many people are guilty of, relative to the qualifications of the teachers of their schools. Allured merely by cheapness, they often send their children to be taught by persons utterly unqualified ; they thus repose the most important trust in persons destitute of every degree of merit. If in any case it is necessary to employ a workman who is master of his business, it is certainly so in the case of the school-master ; and if moral qualifications are requisites in any profession, they should not be neglected in his, to whom is entrusted the immensely important task of forming the minds of our children.

Academical schools have, of late years, become numerous, and their number is still rapidly increasing. They form an intermediate grade between colleges and common schools. From them great benefit results. In every neighborhood where they are found, a number of youth are either fitted for college, or so well educated as to enter with advantage upon the mechanical or commercial professions.

In the United States there are several respectable and flourishing colleges, in which young men are carried through the various branches of a polite and

liberal education. The most important of these, at present, are *Cambridge*, *Yale*, and *Princeton*. Cambridge is probably the best endowed of any college in the United States. Princeton has, it is generally allowed, produced the greatest number of eminent men, and Yale, for the habits of sobriety, order, morality, and discipline, stands unrivalled.

The great increase of books in the United States may be considered both as the cause and the effect of increasing taste and information. Books have multiplied, both from original production and importation, far more rapidly than people to read them. Still, however, regarding the whole mass of population, books cannot be said to be very plenty in this country. Although we have many men of learning, yet eminent erudition is rarely acquired, for want of access to proper sources of knowledge in this infant country; and for want of those liberal fortunes which, in Europe, are sometimes lavished to foster genius when linked to poverty.

The encouragement of genius, by opulent men, is a thing scarcely known in our country, where *to get what you can, and keep what you have got*, is a fundamental maxim with all classes: nor is it very admirable that this maxim is so steadily pursued; since it is regarded as the only clue to wealth, and since most of the best estates owe their existence entirely to it.

It must be confessed that our country has not, as yet, produced many literary works of transcendent merit. We have few men of leisure...few men of very eminent learning: but if compared with the na-

tions of Europe, as to numbers, resources, and duration, we shall not be found deficient. Indeed, the inference from such a comparison will be found highly in our favor. To suppose ourselves equal to the august *literati* of Europe, or nearly equal to them, with our inferior advantages, would be to set our powers of genius far before theirs.

They certainly have some men who very far excel us, at least, in some things : as, for instance, an illustrious constellation of *literati*, who style themselves *Reviewers*. In egotism, presumption, self-importance, and pedantry they were probably never equalled : or, if these should be thought virtues of a doubtful nature, we will speak of things where there is no doubt :—such is their depth, skill, penetration, and adroitness in criticism, that they can pronounce upon the merits of a book, by only having a glimpse at its cover, especially if they know in what country it was written : indeed, it is said, though probably without foundation, that, for a trifling sum of money, they can pronounce upon the merits of a book without even a sight of its cover.

Such is their orthodoxy, that St. Paul himself might blush and tremble at their scrutinizing glance. They weigh genius in such *balances* as that Milton and Shakespeare would be found wanting. Such is the authority...the energy...the severity of their decisions, that even *truth* herself, when she stands in their way, which unluckily often happens, is abashed and grieved, nor can recover her wonted serenity till she recollects her own eternal, immutable nature.

Unhappily for the productions of American pens, there is for them *but one decree* in this awful court. Methinks I see an unhappy throng of my countrymen nipt in the bloom of expectation : they stand petrified by the shock of disappointment, like so many pines scathed by the impetuous bolts of heaven. And who would not be thunder-struck, to be, by one irrevocable sentence, condemned to oblivion ? Who has fortitude sufficient to see a bright harvest of eternal fame blasted in a moment ?

These reviewers have made such havoc among our American authors, that the poor scribblers, like the guilty shades fluttering round the pavillions of Minos and Rhadamanthus, have learned to expect no mercy. Let us, my countrymen, assert our rights, and set those invincible, scientific giants at defiance. If we can get no other satisfaction, let us at least load them with invectives. Let us save them from the folly and guilt of condemning us for nothing. The Atlantic Ocean is between us : they therefore cannot way-lay us behind the hedge, or kick and cudgel us out of company. Without danger of being called to account, we may say such things as the following : viz. That their remarks are often impertinent, invidious, partial, and insipid ;—that nothing can equal their ostentation, arrogance, and vanity, but their pedantry, stupidity, and ignorance. If their remarks are critical, they are such as might be expected from a sophomore ; if they meddle with christianity, we think of Seneca's morals corrupted ; if they decide upon merit, an interest is always seen at bottom.

To erect a court of literary taste, however specious the pretence, must infallibly prove detrimental, if not ruinous, to the cause attempted to be benefitted. For, should it be allowed that correctness and elegance of taste are fairly reduceable to a standard, (a thing however impossible), yet the court in which this cause must be tried can be no less than the whole learned world. In so wide a range of objects, neither one, ten, an hundred, or a thousand men can be found competent to discern, distinguish, compare, and decide; especially when we consider that the character, time, place, circumstances, and motives of authors form documents necessary to be before such a court. The reviewers themselves fully recognized this principle when they were noisy in praise of a poem which they thought English; but so soon as they found it to be American, they presently began to *sing small*. And who is hardy enough to deny that a thing written on the east side of the Atlantic Ocean, where the sun rises several hours sooner, is far preferable, from that very circumstance, to one written on the west side?

The want of these documents have often led the reviewers into the most sorry and ridiculous errors. Productions have come before them, whose beauties they wanted sense and taste to discern, as well as integrity and candor to acknowledge. They are doubtless men of learning in some things....perhaps in many things; but, unluckily, they have assumed a station where, from dire necessity, their only prop is arrogance....where they are compelled to plunge into matters wholly beyond their depth; and to judge critically

of matters of taste, in a region where they are utterly destitute of the qualities they are searching in vain for, without eyes. As mathematicians they often judge of poetry; they calculate a man's oratorical talents by fluxions:—as poets they judge of a man's logic....they weigh a man's eminence and virtue, as a statesman, perhaps, in a pair of hay-scales.

And now we have got into metaphors, we will go farther and observe, that their estimates are often as out of the way as if one should undertake to estimate a lady's beauty with a square and compasses....an elegant piece of clock-work by the half-bushel....a fine landscape with a sounding-line, or Handel's Messiah by Vaughn's rules of fortification.

But we may safely presume they are actuated by far other motives than those of a literary nature. Some of them probably write, because they must write or starve; but, alas! wit and criticism, in these scarce times, are the most unlucky things in the world to make a trade of. Some of them are hankering after the smiles of the great, and are slyly throwing out a bait for bishops, ministers, lords, &c. Loaves and fishes are at the bottom, whether they meddle with politics or religion....church or state.

The object of these remarks is not that the writer expects they will ever cross the Atlantic, without it should, perchance, be in the papering of some trunk; but that the people of this country may know that there is one man living who dares impeach the solemn and pompous decisions....the sanctimonious decrees....the pedantic dogmas of a set of men who med-

die with things with which they have no concern; and who decide upon matters without the necessary means of knowledge.

And, after all, who are those invisible archers, who throw their envenomed arrows from behind a curtain, and wound the innocent much oftener than the guilty? They derive their consequence from their invisibility. Their conduct renders the necessity of their concealment absolutely imperious. They can be regarded in no other light than as a nocturnal banditti who infest the paths of science, and render even the excursions of genius perilous and painful.

To affect to bring every publication in solemn review before them....then to decide, in plain and express terms, upon its merits—to presume to erect a standard of taste to which every thing shall bow—to meddle impertinently—to interfere professedly with such authors as have appealed to the opinion of the public, and are not disposed to acknowledge any other tribunal, is arrogance and presumption in the extreme, and absolutely without a parallel.

The United States can, as yet, boast of no such prodigies in literature as these. But we have men whose attainments in the various branches of literature are decent and respectable; and whose names, if the *reviewers* will graciously permit, will be transmitted with honor to posterity. We are doubtless warranted in the assertion, that no country or nation, in so short a time, has exhibited more numerous specimens of literary merit.

The numerous periodical papers, of late years, published in this country, have had a share of influence in promoting knowledge. It is impossible to form any conjecture concerning the number of magazines, museums, and news-papers now daily published. Several of them are of a moral and religious nature.... are ably conducted, and have unquestionably been attended with very beneficial effects.

It must be confessed, that news-papers are not always to be regarded as the purest channels of political intelligence. They are too generally devoted to mere party, and of course to private views. And since this article is before us, we cannot omit the occasion of observing, that several of our public papers have been conducted, not by party men at all, but by foreigners, who, could it be presumed that they understand the nature of our government and civil policy, are utterly incapable of feeling any interest in, or concern for either. They are in quest of wealth and fame, and are decidedly of that description of fortune-hunters who feel no delicacy in the choice of expedients to accomplish their purposes. That they pursue the course they do, is no matter of surprise, since they act from temper, habit, and necessity. But it is matter of serious regret, that the people of our country should give them countenance—be led by them, and look up to them as their political guides. If ever *the blind led the blind*, it has been in this very matter. Whether they will both fall into the ditch, a few years will determine.

We repeat the observation, that those foreigners, generally speaking, who have carried on several pub-

lic papers, and have made much editorial noise in our country, are, by no means, to be considered as party men. They have, indeed, been the tools of party ; but they are of any party which suits their imperious necessities : they are any thing....they are every thing they are NOTHING. Viewing them in this light, their political labors, which have indeed been Herculean, will admit of the application of the celebrated saying of Horace, "*Parturiunt montes*," &c. Their ingenious, learned, elaborate, high-sounding political essays and discussions must be viewed as coming from a regular manufactory, from whence the good people of this country may always look for stuffs of a certain kind and quality. We need not say how good or bad they are ; they are made for the same end that Peter Pindar's razors were made for, viz. *to sell* ; and, considering the fluctuation of our markets, they have sold well.

We hope we shall not be thought impertinent, when we ask what would be the fate of an American printer who should go into London, or Paris, and set up his political manufactory upon as large a scale as those foreigners do amongst us ? He should tell them plainly what his designs were : for these fellows are seldom guilty of taciturnity. He should, in fact, begin thus—"Gentlemen, you are an unhappy people : you have great advantages, but do not know how to improve them. I have come among you to be your savior.... to diffuse light through your benighted regions. In the first place, I shall correct the abuses of your government : I shall put an end to privilege and prerog-

ative, and reduce all things to the uniform rule of justice : I shall change your ministry, which ought not to remain any longer in the hands of such rascals as now are in power ; and I shall put up certain men who will do ample justice : as I have leisure, I shall look into all your departments, and I pledge myself I will never cease till I have *regulated your nation.*"

"A style like this, from a foreigner, would not pass current in any nation under heaven but our own. We have heard it, shall I say, with patience—with applause—with gratitude. Many of our simple citizens, and simple indeed they must be, have looked up to these loquacious parrots, who, to be sure, recite their lessons with wonderful volubility, and have been ready to exclaim, *It is the voice of God, and not man.*

They have vainly affected to be at the head of the great parties into which our country has been unhappily divided. They have dealt abundantly with *great men* and *great things*....have, in short, affected to be the scourges of the times. The fact is, their presses have been the common sewers of the times, from which have issued streams of filth and falsehood sufficient to overwhelm and drown every thing but immortal truth and virtue.

RELIGION.

It is extremely evident that liberty of conscience is among the natural rights of mankind. Nothing can be more reasonable than that a man should enjoy his own opinions concerning his Maker, and a future state. But the unskilfulness of most nations has led them so to blend religion with state-policy, as to render reli-

gious disputes a matter of temporal interest. Hence have originated innumerable persecutions and wars; and the repose of nations has often been interrupted by religious quarrels.

The christian church had scarcely time to take breath from the incessant persecutions of the Roman emperors, before she began to persecute her own refractory children. In the fury of her misguided zeal she grew intolerant, haughty, and cruel, and, for several centuries, seemed to dispute the character of cruelty with the worst of the heathen emperors. The reader of history is compelled to deplore the persecuting spirit which seemed destined to reign and triumph in the midst of all the improvements of modern Europe....in the midst, we might almost say, of learning, philosophy, and benevolence: for, however expanded the human mind became....however exalted by science and virtue, many of the wisest of men could not but think it right that all should be compelled to think with them, and subscribe to their articles of faith.

Some honorable efforts had been made in Europe towards emancipating the minds of men from this tyrannical chain: but that grand and noble work was effected in this country. Here the Ruler of providence planted a nation which he designed should give to the universe one illustrious specimen of religious freedom. This grand exhibition was to be made under every advantage. The experiment was not left to be made by some petty tribe....some obscure horde....some remote clan in a cramped and narrow corner:

it was to be made by a nation possessing one of the fairest, most opulent, and extensive political divisions of the earth—a nation grown numerous by natural population....rich by unparalleled industry, and powerful by its own inherent firmness, bravery, and virtue.

In the United States, the constitutions both of the general and state governments breathe the purest spirit of religious liberty. There can be no greater proof of this, than that such a spirit prevails and reigns through every part of the United States. There exists *no subordination of sects or parties*: every man worships GOD according to the dictates of his own conscience: no one disturbs him: no one rebukes him: the stern features of bigotry, if they exist, are kept covered under a double veil: the threatening voice of spiritual despotism is never heard.

In the country there are various religious denominations, such as Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Baptists, Quakers, Methodists, &c. If perfect harmony does not, in every instance, prevail amongst them, it is more from accidental causes, than from any rancour occasioned by their distinguished tenets. While we cannot but observe the harmony of the different religious sects with a degree of pleasure, we lament that such differences should exist; and especially that the breach should be unnecessarily widened, as it seems, in some cases, to be, where christians put up more bars than their tenets seem to require or justify.

The enlightening and conversion of the heathen has, of late years, considerably engaged the attention

of the christian world. Attempts have been made in Europe to send missionaries into various parts, for that purpose. The attention of the people of the United States has also been roused to the same salutary object ; and several denominations of christians have combined their influence and exertions. It is ardently to be wished that this business might so prosper as to form the leading trait in the religious character of these times ; and, especially, that it might form an all-important æra in the history of savage nations, by enrolling them with civilized and christianized nations.

Our debt to savage nations, both of reparation and benevolence, is immense. If the christian be the true and only saving religion, of what importance it is that they should know it ! Their instruction and improvement form an object not unworthy even of the patronage of government. The voice of humanity loudly bewails their deplorable condition. We may safely affirm that legislative interference is often employed in matters of less magnitude : but we may rest assured that the government of this country will, at least, smile on the benevolent designs and endeavors of individuals, and will smooth the way for their accomplishment.

If the prejudices of heathens against christianity are strong, they are fortified in them by facts of a most stubborn and glaring nature. They judge of this religion, to them unknown, by what they consider the best means of judging—the conduct of nations professing it. A history of the aggressions of christian nations upon the heathen, would form a volume of the

most enormous crimes. On this score, what a catalogue of enormities would be found in the countries and islands of India?...What in Africa—what in the West-Indies....in South America....in the southern states, and in various parts of North America. What oppression, injustice, and monstrous outrage, the defenceless people of those unenlightened climes have suffered, from nations professing the just, holy, humane, pacific principles of christianity?

For those nations thus suffering....thus bleeding with recent wounds, it is natural to view in one light the professor, the profession, and the religion professed.

To this, as a principal cause, it is doubtless owing that so great a part of the world still remains heathen. Those nations who have been favored most with the light of science and truth, have improved their superior advantages to the injury and ruin of their fellow-creatures less informed. While christians, as a body, conducted agreeably to their principles....while they behaved like subjects of the prince of peace, success attended their doctrines—their institution spread with rapidity, and their missionary labors were not in vain. But those happy days have been long since past. Christian nations, once having become powerful, thought no more of converting the heathen but by the point of the sword: and they have carried on this mode of conversion upon the most extensive scale, and with a high hand. Millions have fallen a sacrifice, and the remnant have only survived to hate, abhor, and curse the christain name, from father to son, forever.

It is time to think of reparation. But, alas ! what reparation can be made for past ages, and for innumerable millions ? I forbear to mention the awful reparation which is *now* making for their ruin. Almighty providence has their destroyers in hand : but their blood, even the atrocious guilt of their destruction, has descended and rests on the heads of christian powers now on the stage of action. They, too, are in the hand of the same just providence which has determined their fall. The present severe commotions can only be regarded as the movements of that high and dreadful wheel, which will pass over and crush them, and cause them to become like chaff of the summer threshing-floor.

May we hope that our infant country is reserved to a happier destiny ? Such a hope can only be grounded on the idea of our cleaving wholly to the christian character. If we do this, we shall not only enjoy the smiles of heaven, and the solid and lasting benefits of divine protection, but we shall look on the poor savages, on our borders, as our unhappy brethren, and shall not only treat them with clemency, but shall make every possible exertion for their instruction and improvement.

It cannot be doubted that the perfect religious freedom prevalent in this country is, in some instances, improved to the purposes of licentiousness. It probably tends to promote and cherish a great diversity of opinions : perhaps it is often attended with gross neglects of religious institutions...such as the sabbath, and attendance on public worship. It has been accused

of favoring infidelity, and leading to the utter neglect and contempt of all religion. Experience, however, refutes the accusation. It is confidently presumed that religion is regarded with as much sincerity in this country, as in any where there is less religious freedom.

But should it even be granted that libertinism, in some instances, seems to be rather encouraged by such unbridled freedom, as well might one urge, as an objection to free government, that it tends to licentiousness in the people. The important and incalculable benefit resulting from our religious system, is the general diffusion of light and knowledge. When a man is left to choose his own religion, the moment he is convinced that important consequences are likely to result from his choice, he begins to listen...to enquire...to examine...to discuss. He finds others engaged in the same pursuit. They prompt, encourage, and aid one another. It thence happens that no country on earth equals this for religious enquiries. Nor is there any country where the people, as a body, are so well informed in religious matters.

GOVERNMENT.

The government of the United States seems to be without a parallel. We find nothing like it in modern times. In ancient times the Greeks had something which resembled it; but that resemblance was indeed remote and feeble. Their amphyctionic council was little different from an assembly of ambassadors, saving that they met regularly both as to time and place; and, when convened, their proceedings

were more like some kind of supreme court, than a representative legislative body.

Our government is no less singular as to its nature than as to its origin. It is, perhaps, the only government which, in all its parts, was the result of plan, foresight, or design. Most governments have jumbled into existence, from mere accident, by a concurrence of unforeseen events. Great things have grown from small beginnings. Men have been fatigued into compliance with the dictates of prompt and daring ambition; and have acquiesced in a system of arbitrary power : but, in our case, a number of men, competent to so great a work, sat down and planned our government. Before them lay the legislation of all past ages. They saw the rocks and shoals on which many have dashed. They did what they could for our benefit. The plan they formed was dictated by their knowledge of our circumstances ; and it is probably the ablest and best plan of government ever formed by man.

In all human concerns, theory and practice are found to differ. We shall not so far infringe upon the sphere of the politician as to meddle with the practical part, that is, the administration of our government : nor shall we take any other notice of the theory than as a mere matter of speculation. No human government can be perfect ; of course, the best ever devised by mortal man must be subject to changes, inconveniences, weaknesses, and, ultimately, to dissolution. Man himself must fail ; and can it be thought strange that all his works should, in that respect, resemble him ?

Some writers insist that a government, in order to have virtue, strength, and duration, must combine the

three principles of monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy. It cannot be doubted that monarchy is the strongest form of government—aristocracy has the most wisdom, and democracy the most virtue. Could a government be formed which would unite the strength of monarchy without its tyranny....the wisdom of aristocracy without its ambition; and the virtue of democracy without its weakness and folly, that form would be the best.

Our government is wholly without the monarchical branch: it only combines aristocracy with republicanism. The probability is, that, though republican in theory, it will, in the course of events, become, in a great measure, aristocratical. Our executive power is weak, and the aristocratical tendency of the whole machine too obvious to escape the notice of any one who looks attentively at it. Power and influence can never be long separated from wealth. Many governments, in theory, have professed to confer honor and office by merit. No theory has been more specious than ours: but, in this country, the honors and offices will be controlled by a chain of influence, whose last link will be made fast by a golden staple. True, it may be said that our government is elective, and almost every man is eligible to office. But what is our chief magistrate? He is elevated at the head of several millions of people. If there is such a thing as a natural aristocracy in society, he must be from that class. He must be a man of the most elevated dignity—a man of a mind far superior to other men, and whose life, character, circumstances, and

fortunes have combined to raise him far above the common level. Hence, though the office is elective, yet it is as completely beyond the reach of the great mass of the people, as though it was hereditary.

Let it be supposed that there are seven men in the United States adequate to the discharge of the duties of President. Their depth can only be fathomed, and their qualifications traced, by men of nearly equal capacity. The great body of the people never saw, and never will see those seven. They must be made known to the community, by men of an intermediate grade of intelligence, who are still far above the common level. Perhaps one hundred men must be the sources of intelligence to the millions who compose the nation: nor yet can this hundred act upon the community, but by another intermediate grade, consisting, we will say, of a thousand. Thus it appears that our right of suffrage, in the election of our chief magistrate, is an immensely complicated system of influence, interest, favor, confidence, and proxy. A chain of influence, composed of ten thousand links, and divided into ten thousand branches, descends with tortuous course to the great body of the people. Nobody can tell where or how it begins. If it is corrupt in its source, it seldom grows purer in its propagation; or, if it arise from a pure fountain, it is often checked and defeated in its progress. One man tells me to vote for A....another tells me to vote for B. I know nothing of A. or B. but from the distant and discordant murmurs of common fame. I decide the important question, therefore, not by comparing the qualifi-

cations of A. and B. but by balancing the integrity and good sense of two persons much nearer me, by whom A. and B. are recommended.

And who are the senators of the United States? They are two in number from each state. They should be, as all acknowledge, men of great abilities.... great integrity, and super-eminent virtue. They can be found only in the highest and most dignified walks of life: they must be men, the general current of whose lives has evinced their greatness and integrity,—of course, men rarely to be found. They must be selected from the happy few, who, by a peculiar destiny, are fit to be entrusted with the most arduous and important concerns of a nation. The right of suffrage, therefore, in the great body of the people, avails no more than this, viz. to say which one of the few shall be the man; nor can they say that, till they are told which one *shall be the man*, by somebody who knows him better than they do.

The same observations apply with equal force to the choice of the members of the house of representatives. We will suppose that each member of that house has forty thousand constituents: not one fourth of them have any personal knowledge of him, or any knowledge of him at all, but by information from, perhaps, some man, who knows some man, who knows some man, &c. who knows him better than they do. It amounts to this, that, from among the few qualified for that important office, one must be selected, and it should be the one who is the best among forty thousand. As a general principle, it will happen that this

office will be obtained by the most opulent, influential, or intriguing men in society....men elevated far above the common level; and sometimes men who are strangers to the views, feelings, and interests of the great body of the people. Therefore, although we have no titles of nobility in our country, yet all the branches of government being organized and made up of men of a class superior in point of intellect, interest, influence, and, we might add, of intrigue, it can scarcely be doubted that it will, one day or other, tend to aristocracy.

A government, composed of branches from different classes of men—which branches, in the proper exercise of their powers will be actuated by an opposition of interest and prerogative, will check and balance itself, and, by action and reaction, will preserve an equilibrium; but when all parts of government are from men of one class....have but one interest, and lean the same way, the consequence is obvious. In a word, in the formation of governments, allowance should be made for man as a selfish being; and, in the different branches, that selfishness should be so situated as to impel them in different directions. When a man's interest leads him to do right, we have the surest pledge of his conduct.

In our country, the vast objects to be disposed of by periodical and frequent elections, will be a fruitful source of contention, difficulty, and danger. The amplest field for chicanery and intrigue will be opened that ever existed. Merit is generally modest, and rather seeks concealment, while ambition assumes a

thousand forms of disguise....stoops to the meanest arts, and is always noisy for the public good.

The coexistent powers of the general and state governments, especially in the legislative and judiciary departments, render the whole machine as complicated as it is great. It will require time, and, it is feared; more wisdom and virtue than are common to mankind to define their respective limits....to adjust duly their interfering claims....to extend or restrain their jurisdictions as may be necessary on future emergencies.

One of the most serious evils to which the constitution of our government is liable, (and the same may be said of all written constitutions), is the power, caprice, ambiguity, and fallacy of construction. The instrument is very concise, though perhaps nothing of a similar nature was ever more explicit and intelligible. The political tactician, however, can easily demonstrate that no system of law or form of government can be couched in such language as to be beyond the reach of sophistry. The clearest, most forcible, and positive expressions, are liable to constructions, glosses, colorings, and perversion. It is remarkable that some of the greatest and most important political disputes in this country have arisen respecting the intent and meaning of the constitution. In those disputes, not only the people at large, but even statesmen, have actually taken different sides, and maintained the controversy in the most strenuous manner.

But without virtue in the people....indeed, without great wisdom and circumspection, the best theory that

ever existed on paper, will be like a paper wall opposed to the cannon's mouth. The wisest regulations.... the best laws, will be censured as unconstitutional, through mere perversion : the constitution itself will be assailed, under pretext of amendment ; it will be curtailed, mutilated, undermined, and destroyed. Nothing can prevent evils of this nature, but public virtue.

The vast disparity among the different states will ultimately prove a source of danger to our government. So long as human nature remains what it now is, men will not fail to avail themselves of the power put into their hands, and, generally, to selfish purposes. While some of the states are as large as the kingdoms of Europe, others are quite diminutive, and, on the principle of equal representation, must have little influence in the general government. An equality in the senate can by no means give the small states an equiponderance, since, in the lower house, the essential laws of the union generally originate. On this rock, the Grecian republics were ruined. Though it must be confessed we are far better provided for against the evil than they were, yet our provision will prove ineffectual : the larger states will be likely to predominate and govern. This will occasion negotiations, combinations, and intrigues, till, at length, *Lacedemon*, *Athens*, or *Thebes*, will rule the rest.*

The theorist cannot but see defect in our judiciary system. The judiciary department, under every free government, is the proper guard of the laws : but, in

* It is left for the reader to discover what states those are.

our country, the laws of the union are, in a great measure, left to the guardianship of courts, whose existence depends on the state legislatures. It may, indeed, be said, that this will serve to guarantee the liberties of each state. Will it do this—or rather will it not repose the security of the general government on the virtue of each individual state?...a prop too feeble for the weight it sustains. The causes of which the federal court holds jurisdiction, are few, and of small importance compared with the vast pecuniary concerns of the state courts; while, on the other hand, the legislative concerns of the general government as much outweigh those of the several states. It amounts to this, that the legislative power of this country is holden by the general government...the judicial by the several states. It will also serve to set this matter in a stronger light, by observing that it has been the manifest policy of some of the larger states to lessen the sphere, and diminish the importance of the federal courts.

No organ of government can be considered as complete in which there does not exist a plenitude of legislative, executive, and judicial powers. The general government legislates and looks to the state judiciaries for the carrying of its laws into effect. But if, as many assert, the state governments are to operate as a check upon the general government....if they are to be considered as the anchor of our liberties, how plausible will be their pretext, and how frequent their opportunities for opposing the laws of the union. In the present calm of public passion, and reign of

virtue, while, as yet, many of those patriots are alive who first asserted and accomplished our freedom; from a foreign yoke, there is, perhaps, little danger from these sources; but the time may come when things shall be quite altered. Such a time probably will come long before our population shall equal the means of subsistence in our country.

To give symmetry and permanence to our system of government, one would be induced, from pursuing the preceding train of reflections, to think that our federal judiciary should be as extensive in its jurisdiction as the legislature. Perhaps, however, the importance of the state judiciaries is necessary to the subsistence of the states in their distinct capacity. How far, and in what sense are the individual states independent? How far are they consolidated? What is the nature and strength of their union? How is that union to be preserved, and how long will it last?

THE SPIRIT OF OUR GOVERNMENT, AS IT RELATES TO FOREIGNERS.

No government was ever more benevolent or liberal to foreigners, than that of the United States. It has holden out to them the greatest encouragements; nor has it disappointed their expectations. When arrived in this country, they have been fostered and cherished with the greatest care and sympathy for their lonesome and exiled condition. They have been taken by the hand, not only by our citizens, but by the government itself—they have not only been aided in business, but have been made citizens, and honored with the public confidence, by appointments to offices under the government.

The object of our people and of the government itself, in this matter, has doubtless first been to promote emigrations from Europe. The first settlers in this country, while it was yet a mighty wilderness, considered themselves as in a kind of voluntary exile. They seemed for a long time to want nothing so much as inhabitants. Even after they had grown so numerous as to feel no fear of the savages, still there was an almost boundless continent before them. They felt the want of people on all accounts: to clear off the woods....to cultivate the lands....to carry on the manual arts....to promote the liberal sciences; and, in short, for all the grand objects of peace and war. To them nothing was so desirable as the arrival of new settlers. They solicited emigrations, and received and caressed strangers from all nations with the utmost warmth and sincerity.

This disposition becoming habitual and universal, it descended from father to son, and lost nothing even by that revolution which severed us from Great-Britain and made us an independent nation. When the present federal government was formed, it could not but savor of those nations of government which were co-extensive with the Anglo-Americans, and had been coeval with their first settlement in this country. An immense country....few people....a territory, but the margin of which was as yet settled....universal liberty, both civil and religious....freedom of thought and speech....great sincerity of mind and simplicity of manners....respect for and confidence in strangers coming to live amongst us, were objects whose influ-

ence predominated in the minds of all classes, not excepting those who formed our state constitutions.

To increase the population of our extensive territories, provision was made for the encouragement of emigration. The warm benevolence of individuals prompted them to institute societies for the aid of emigrants, and legal provision was made that, in a short time, and with little trouble, they might become our fellow-citizens, and partake of all the privileges and immunities of our country. Nor did our zeal to promote the cause of foreigners stop here. Several of them, in various parts, were promoted to offices of considerable trust and importance, and were allowed to share largely in the honors, powers, and emoluments of government.

The people of the United States, in their favor to foreigners, were prompted by purer motives than those of a selfish nature. Although they saw their interest in an increase of population, yet humanity itself, and that of the most generous and elevated nature, had much influence in this business. They wished their country might be an asylum for the poor and oppressed from all nations. It was their ambition to give strangers, who wanted a country and a home, so welcome a reception, and afford them such privileges, as to efface from their memories the days of their affliction and distress, or to cause them to be remembered only to heighten the contrast of their present good fortune and felicity. Many an unhappy exile can, with great propriety, say, *I was a stranger, and ye took me in,*

It is not unlikely, however, that the future historian will be compelled to say that our government, in relation to foreigners, erred through excess of benevolence and urbanity. In general, the incentives to emigration were both needless and unsafe. From the natural progress of population, our increase was great almost without a parallel. Far distant from the desolating wars of Europe, our fathers dwelt in the bosom of peace and plenty, and, under the smiles of providence, had yearly accessions of strength more to be relied on than mercenary armies, or any description of foreign emigrants.

The rapid increase of any nation, by means of an influx of foreigners, is dangerous to the repose of that nation; especially if the number of emigrants bears any considerable proportion to the old inhabitants. Even if that proportion is very small, the tendency of the thing is injurious, unless the new-comers are more civilized and more virtuous, and have, at the same time, the same ideas and feelings about government. But if they are more vicious, they will corrupt—if less industrious, they will promote idleness—if they have different ideas of government, they will contend...if the same, they will intrigue and interfere.

The people brought up in the bosom of the British kingdoms are essentially different from us both in their views and feelings about government. Though they may use the same words that we use—though they express the same abhorrence of tyranny and oppression, yet liberty, considered as a creature of the mind, is with them a different thing from what it is with us.

It is no difficult matter to account for the licentious views of liberty, and the romantic ideas of the freedom of this country, entertained by the lower classes of Europeans. From their infancy they have associated with government and law the idea of tyranny and injustice, and with liberty a state of society as unrestrained as a state of nature. When they come into this country and find law and government of a sterner cast than they had figured to themselves, they soon grow discontented, and seek for a revolution.

The history of Rome furnishes a striking instance of the deplorable effects of an influx of strangers into a country. After the Romans had conquered Carthage, Greece, Asia, and Gaul, Italy presently was filled with enterprising emigrants from all quarters. Though they came, as it were, singly, and as humble suppliants, yet they, in effect, conquered their conquerors : they inundated all Italy : the majesty of the ancient Romans was obscured, overwhelmed, and utterly lost in an innumerable swarm of foreigners : the evil came on by slow and imperceptible degrees, but was at last irresistible and fatal. These were the persons generally employed in the civil wars. A multitude made up of such people is always fickle, inflammatory, outrageous, vindictive, and burning with ambition to level all distinctions.

It is not a common case that the most valuable members of society emigrate. As it was in the days of David, whosoever was in debt, or discontented, or in distress, fled to the cave of Adullam, and by that mean his army grew apace : so it generally is in cases

of emigration. Though many worthy characters are found in so great an emigration as has been to this country, yet, for the most part, they are poor, distressed, overwhelmed with calamities, discontented, oppressed by the tyranny of their government sometimes, but more commonly by their own vices or imprudence.

The people of every country are the most suitable to govern their own country. Could Pitt and Fox be restored to life, they would not make good legislators in America. If, indeed, in a few illustrious instances it would do, as there is no general rule without exceptions, yet the principle here laid down is certainly correct. In whatever country foreigners interfere with government, the tendency of that interference is a change either for better or for worse; and the tendency of changes, especially when the effect of blind causes, is but too well known.

The frame of our government is probably as faultless as can be expected in this imperfect world: its ultimate success must then depend upon its being wisely administered. Relative to that article our security lies in our elections. As, in our form of government, the right of suffrage is among the most important of civil rights, it should be preserved inviolate; but it should be guarded with the severest caution. Foreigners who arrive in this country seldom come with an expectation of becoming legislators here. Their confidence in our government probably brought them hither, where they ought not to hope for more than complete security of life, liberty, and property. More than such security would, in the end, work injury to themselves.

To illustrate the subject, we will state an extreme case. We will suppose the government of the United States wholly given into the hands of strangers and foreigners. An arrangement of this nature, every one must see, would, by completely ruining the country, ruin all it contains....foreigners as well as citizens. From this, to descend to a case of a much lower nature, we will only suppose that every foreigner, on, or soon after his arrival, should be vested with some office of government. From such a provision two great evils would arise:—first, strangers would flock to our shores in swarms and clouds, like the locusts of Egypt; nor would they all be of the most meritorious class: and secondly, the offices filled by these people would generally be wretchedly discharged. They would have neither the ability nor the disposition to discharge their duty, according to our notions of duty: nor would it remedy the difficulty, should it be granted that their notions were more correct than ours.

From both of the preceding cases, which are more or less extreme, we will now descend to the thing as it is. Every foreigner, soon after his arrival in our country, by a course neither circuitous, expensive, nor long, becomes a citizen in the fullest sense. He is one of the *sovereign people* of this country—is an elector, and eligible to all offices. He immediately becomes a politician—is profound in the science of government—is able to set all things right. From his cradle his ideas of law and government have been closely associated with the most direful images of fear,

terror, and resentment ; and he views liberty as some wild, enchanting mountain-nymph, roving through fields spread wide and adorned with flowers. With these views of law and liberty, he sets himself indefatigably at work, to mend the course of things. He declaims against oppression—flames with zeal for liberty, and seldom fails to be at the head or tail of innovation and reform....perhaps of insurrection.

It is worthy of remark that emigrants from Europe are from a more advanced state of society than is generally found in this country ; or, at least, an older state. It thence happens that many of them, even of the lowest grade, have a certain knowledge of mankind, the necessary result of mingling with an immense mass of population. This knowledge, indeed, is chiefly made up of vanity and vice ; but it helps them to great volubility of tongue, smartness of reply, and a seeming knowledge of things, which, handed out on all occasions, readily sets many people to staring at them as something extraordinary. For this very reason, many of them vulgarly pass for people of great information, especially in the circulating politics of the day ; of course they are pushed forward into offices of considerable responsibility.

The republic of Athens guarded the avenues to citizenship with great strictness. With them, foreigners could only become citizens in their great grand children. Their policy, in this respect, seemed not only safe, but necessary. Their state was so small that, could foreigners have gained admittance, they would soon have outnumbered them. It is as dangerous to be outwitted as outnumbered ; and it would

be the true policy of the United States to admit no foreigner ever to the right of suffrage. No person should hereafter become a citizen but by being born within the United States.

Far be it that this rule should extend to the disfranchising of such as have by any means already obtained citizenship. Many of them came amongst us when their arrival was fortunate for us, and it should certainly prove so to them. Their presence gave *courtenance*, and their assistance *strength*. But those days are past; and a similar occasion will never return. For the future increase of our citizens we may now safely rely on the prolific and legitimate powers of nature, and all other means of increase should be rejected as an acquisition highly dangerous, even as a surreptitious gain.

Let foreigners find in this country an asylum of rest—we had almost said an escape from justice...at least from oppression. Here let them buy, and build, and plant—let them spread and flourish, pursuing interest and happiness in every mode of life which enterprise can suggest or reason justify. But let them be exonerated from the toils of government. We do not need their hands *to steady the ark*. Let them be spared the arduous task of legislation. If we make good laws, they will share the benefit...if bad ones, the blame will not be theirs. Let their children born amongst us become citizens by birth-right.

POPULAR ELECTIONS.

In elective governments the most important point to be settled is who shall have the right of suffrage....

who shall be the electors? Surely, if this right were always to be exercised by wise and virtuous men, none but such would be chosen into office. But where the power to choose is lodged in bad hands, it is probable that bad men will be chosen. Hence the old but true maxim, that the happiness of elective governments depends on the virtue of the people.

The conduct of the people of the United States, hitherto, has been such as will entitle them to the character of a wise and virtuous people; with, perhaps, some small deductions. Could it be relied on that we should always remain as virtuous as we now are, and perhaps a little more so, it must be granted that the right of suffrage was put into exactly the right hands. Let us indulge the pleasing hope that, as a nation, we shall not remain stationary in our present attainments of political virtue, but shall continually progress in the same, and also in knowledge, till we shall become, to a man, a nation of patriots and statesmen.

In spite of the most flattering hopes, considering the various means by which the number of citizens is daily and rapidly increased, it must be allowed to be possible that the people of this country will grow far more corrupt. They certainly have the common inducements and temptations to that end. If ever the people of any country were corrupted by an influx of foreigners, of different habits, manners, and customs, we are in danger: if a sudden increase of wealth, luxury, effeminacy, extravagance, and dissipation ever corrupted any nation, we are in danger: if it is pos-

sible for artful and designing men to assail the virtues of the lower class of people....to palm their ambitious schemes upon the unwary....to impose upon ignorance and simplicity, we are in danger.

The causes of public corruption and national depravity, at first, are slow, and work unseen. They begin to operate by insensible degrees, and are always perceived least by that part of the community on which their operation is most fatal. If such causes exist in this country, however much the good sense and virtue of the people may retard their operation for a while, yet they may at length produce their utmost effects; for the same causes, under similar circumstances, will infallibly produce the same effects.

When that time shall come, (and God grant that it may prove to be a very distant day), our elections will, in some degree, resemble those of ancient Rome, in the latter stages of the republic; when Cæsar relied chiefly on an armed force which he knew to be devoted to his interest—when Pompey sought the favor of the people by popular laws, and by repealing such as were unpopular—and when the opulent Crassus sought the same, by making dinners and various donations to a rabble, consisting of half a million of people.

The right of suffrage, in the hands of a multitude of ignorant, indigent, and vicious men, is but another name for throwing the whole number of their votes in favor of any artful, aspiring demagogue, who will purchase them at the highest price. Nor are they, indeed, very costly....being purchased, for the most part, with empty flattery, and false promises. The celebrated

Crassus was probably the most liberal purchaser of popular favor, to be found in the annals of history. He supported the poor of Rome at his own expense, for about nine months. It must have cost him ten millions of dollars, according to the present value of specie. The most unlucky part of the business was, that the rabble, after they had eaten up all he could well spare, in a most rascally manner forsook him for Pompey, who only tickled their ears with handsome speeches ; and Pompey they forsook to gaze on the military splendor of Cæsar. Cæsar was far too generous and magnanimous : they presently put him aside, and received in his place a stern, profound, and artful tyrant, under whom they humbly kissed the rod, and lay down to their burdens forever.

If popular favor is sometimes cheaply purchased, it nevertheless always costs more than it is worth. For what is it ? To answer this question, we need the pen of Shakespeare, who has given us a definition of the word *honor*. It is an hour's, or a day's, or a month's existence in the blasting, pestiferous breath of folly and falsehood. The favorite name undulates in air to-day with boisterous acclamations of praise—to-morrow, with hideous imprecations and deadly curses ; and, at all times, with grosser fumes than float around the tables of the gods, after quaffing deeply of their immortal nectar. Yet demagogues, in every age, have made this same *popularity* their supreme deity : and many, poor souls ! who could not give what Crassus gave to purchase it, have given more—viz. their character, integrity, and conscience : at least, should char-

honor, integrity, and conscience be thought worth more than ten million of dollars ; of which, probably, some may doubt.

Should the time ever arrive when there will be an immense multitude of people in the United States, and especially about the great cities, whose indigence will render them easily assailable by bribes, donations, and largesses—whose peculiar circumstances will render them actually dependant on the rich and enterprising, and whose habits of life and thinking will render them promptly subservient to the views of artful and ambitious men, at least by suffrage, if not by arms, it must be granted that at such a time, and under such circumstances, the right of suffrage would certainly give that class a weight in government to which they are by no means entitled, upon any principle of equity, rational freedom, or public safety. Is not that time already come ? It has come—but it never will be past: the evident symptoms by which its arrival is indicated will never slacken their urgency, but will gain strength with our population, from year to year.

To determine who shall have the right of voting in a popular government, is not among the smallest difficulties. No line of qualifications can be drawn, free from objection or embarrassment. If a plan could be devised which would recognise the rights of each individual, and afford complete security to the public, that would be the one to be preferred. If that is not attainable, the nearest approximation to it must be sought. In a country like the United States, where the landed interest is, by far, the most important..., where land is

very plenty, and very cheap; landed property should, beyond doubt, be made a qualification necessary to the right of suffrage. No person should be allowed to act as an elector, even of a state representative, but such as possessed real or landed property. A regulation of this nature exists in some of the states. Its happy influence is apparent, and will be *more so*. Those states, from that very cause, will preserve their liberties longer than any other part of the union.

The right of suffrage thus guarded, it must be confessed that, in a few instances, injustice would seem to be the consequence. It would exclude some from voting...some who are certainly very amiable and useful members of society :...but cases of this nature would be rare ; and much rarer than might be expected from a slight view of the subject. If it excluded a few worthy persons, it would at least exclude a thousand to one who are certainly unworthy. By such a provision vast numbers would be debarred from approaching the poll, who, if we might be indulged in a little levity, might almost take the oath of a certain comical fellow, who swore that neither he, nor his father, nor his grandfather before him, were ever worth five pounds ; and what was more, that he never would be worth that sum.

It should be remembered that every person in this country, possessing property, of whatever description, might easily possess land. The popular objection to the measure, that it would disfranchise the mercantile interest, is certainly void of foundation. Merchants have property, and, if for no other reason, they might

purchase land, in order to comply with a regulation founded in the strongest reasons. The great body of those utterly unable to possess land are persons to whom the right of voting would absolutely be no privilege. As for property or character to defend, they have none : generally of the lowest grades of intellect and information, they have no political theory to espouse, or errors to combat.

These last observations apply exclusively to the lowest grade of people in and about great cities. In the country, every prudent, industrious man knows that he can, almost at his option, possess land. It is within his reach ; and the savings of a few year's industry will purchase him a decent little farm...at least as large as that of the great Cincinnatus. In the states above alluded to, where landed property is made requisite to the elective franchise, prodigious benefits are found to result from the regulation, to the people themselves. It stimulates them to seek and acquire real property. A man there disdains the idea of not being a freeholder : he immediately sets himself about purchasing a little land : ambition spurs him on : he saves every shilling till he attains to the darling object. By the time he has paid for his little farm, the habits of industry and economy are confirmed. He then enlarges his views...strives for, aims at, and of course acquires a handsome property. The principle here advocated, in this way, becomes a source of noble ambition, virtuous habits, and real felicity to thousands.

If multitudes, swarming about great cities, and more thinly scattered through every part of the coun-

try, form a numerous class, to whom the right of suffrage cannot possibly be any privilege, their holding and exercising that right will be attended with deplorable and incalculable evils to that class to whom the right is most dear and sacred. Enterprising and ambitious men, who know their own utter dereliction of all principle, and their eternal exclusion from the walks of honor and virtue, well know that these people have no minds of their own. They will be perpetually intriguing among them. They will not fail to condense and concentrate their otherwise scattered opinions, and throw all their weight (i. e. of their votes) into one scale. It is needless to say what scale that will be. The intriguing and ambitious knowing how impossible it is, and will ever be, for themselves to rise by merit, have their eye constantly upon this class of people as the true source of their elevation to power.

Should the right of suffrage, however, remain as extensive as it now is, whatever evils may impend from that or any other cause, will, it is hoped, be ward-
ed off by the wisdom and virtue of the American people, which, on several important occasions, have been most illustriously displayed.

CONCLUSION.

Thus have we attempted to delineate the great lines of history. Beginning with the infancy of our race, we have seen the world overspread with people, divided into numerous nations and languages. We have seen the mighty fabric of social, political, and religious order rising by degrees... assuming various

forms...diffusing its benign influence over mankind, and descending down through all ages, with additional improvements, to our own times. Having traced but a single line through the immensity of human concerns, we have left, on either hand of our course, extensive fields unexplored. To them, we now recommend the young reader to turn his attention ; with assurances that he will receive the richest remuneration for his labors.

Having arrived at our own times, we have adventured a transient glance at the present state of our species in the world. We are compelled to say that the prospect over Asia and Africa is gloomy....over Europe it is doubtful, and, on the whole, we both see and feel numerous reasons of gratitude to divine providence which has cast our lot in America.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE.

WHETHER we regard profit or pleasure, historical knowledge is of use. As history abounds with novelty, it delights the fancy, and opens various sources of pleasure to the imagination ; and as it brings up before us transactions numerous, past, and distant, it assists experience, by presenting, in one view, the causes and consequences of great events.

The life of one man is far too short, and the sphere of his observation too small to acquire an adequate

knowledge either of what is, what has been done, or what is now doing in the world : but as there is a certain uniformity in human character and action, we may, with a degree of safety, judge of the future by the past and present. The tendency of certain things to the happiness of nations, and the reverse—the origin and progress...the wane and dissolution of empires, can only be discovered by the light of history ; nor is there any natural light by which we can more clearly see the influence of character, morals, art, and science, on the happiness of man.

At what period of life the study of history should commence, is a point which remains unsettled. Perhaps no subject of equal literary importance has been less regarded...less systematized, or less pursued than the study of history : it has hardly been considered as a part of education, either liberal or professional, and, for the most part, becomes a bye business....deferred till late,...sacrificed to inferior objects, or neglected altogether. A variety of facts lead us to conclude it should be entered upon much earlier than the common practice points out. The body of history is simple narration....a species of instruction adapted to the first openings of a young mind ; on which deep and strong impressions are easily made. It is a common thing to put children, at an early age, to learn the rules of arithmetic....the grammatical construction of language, or even the mathematical sciences ; which things are farther beyond the reach of their capacity than history, at the time....more difficult to be remembered, and of less importance.

Battles and sieges,...the strong lustre of great characters...memorable events....indeed, all the most prominent features of history, impress our minds with extraordinary pleasure or disgust, and commonly leave indelible marks, especially if made while young. The histories of nations are, generally speaking, but the histories of mens' passions delineated ; for that reason, they strike deeper into the mind....move the passions more, and are longer felt than cool, unimpassioned reasonings, and curious speculations.

A small acquaintance with the outlines of geography seems the only prerequisite to the study of history. The student should have some idea of the figure and motion of the earth....of the general divisions of land and water....the positions and extent of the continents, islands, and oceans ; and this is easily gained by a few short lessons on the globe.

A habit of application is necessary, in order to make progress in any study, or to eminence in any sphere of life. To promote this, most ardent endeavors should not be wanting ; and when once this point is gained, the hill of science is easily ascended. Having sufficiently glanced over the main tract, the student may then return, and be directed in reading a regular course of ancient history.

Knowledge of history strongly inculcates the preference of virtue to vice, and the folly of human ambition. We there learn that men, elevated on the summit of earthly glory, are less safe, and far less happy than those in the humbler walks of life : their fall is no less certain....commonly more sudden, and

always more dreadful. The historian can compare the modes of life, and the customs of different ages and countries....the effects of different religions and governments on his species : a study which tends to free the mind from bigotry and superstition ; and, in such a mighty course of events, makes a man feel his weakness and insignificance. By the light of history, human affairs resemble a stormy sea. It foams and rages under the dire agency of tremendous passions, though subject to the higher control of almighty power. All human institutions are seen mouldering away ; and the works of art, however solid, beautiful, or grand, either by the ravages of time or the blind fury of mortals, all perish. These views diminish self-importance, and leave the mind to seek higher grounds of confidence and hope. The historian sees all nations, in every age, uniting in a belief of God....adoring HIM as the first cause....confiding in him as the ultimate end of creatures, and is naturally led into a code of morality which censures certain actions and characters, as they tend to disorder, misery, and ruin.

The light of history unveils many characters ; it discloses the features of the ambitious tyrant and aspiring demagogue....the masked hypocrite....the stern bigot, and stately politician. True history is a gem of inestimable value. It seems almost to remedy the defect of human foresight. We there learn how shortsighted many legislators have been in promulgating laws, utterly inconsistent with the good of society : for while the statesman, in the busy

scenes of life, is bewildered in the ambiguity of probable effects, and, like a pilot, who cannot feel his helm, cannot discern the drift of empire, the historian, calmly seated in the shade of contemplation, lifts his perspective....begins at the spring, and carefully traces the tortuous course of governments and empires.... sees them, like a river, dashing over precipices, majestically rolling through plains, or disappearing in the ocean.

Having travelled in thought over these extensive and diversified fields, the historian returns to the occurrences of his own time, matured with the experience of ages, furnished with principles and remarks drawn from the sublimest exhibitions of virtue, contrasted with every thing hateful in the human character. In walking among the sepulchres of empires, he sees hung up, as beacons, the catastrophies of all ancient governments : he beholds, with emotions of wonder, pity, and dread, and sometimes weeps over, the inevitable destiny of human institutions. These views at once expand and enrich the soul, which feels a mournful but sublime pleasure in tracing the vestiges of exalted virtue among the monuments of antiquity.

The statesman, politician, and legislator will derive essential benefit from the knowledge of history : since it is there alone he can trace the origin and operation, and, of course, the excellencies and defects of the various forms of government. From the grand monarchies of Cyrus, Alexander, and Cæsar, he may pass down to those of China, Turkey, and Russia, as they now are ; or from the republics of ancient to those

of modern times. He may compare the vices of great, with those of small states : and especially, he may contrast the virtues of rising, with the vices of declining states. The important conclusions he will be able to draw from these comparisons, will form a counterpart to the pleasure he will derive from a review of these sublime fields of knowledge.

The statesman who is acquainted with the history of nations and governments, will penetrate the false glosses which sophistry can give to visionary theories. Far other motives, than the charm of novelty, will be necessary to induce him to put the welfare of his country at hazard, on the doubtful issue of experiments. His experience is matured by the wisdom of past ages ; and with him, all the various expedients of artful, ambitious, and aspiring men are so perfectly comprehended and seen through, that they are even become trite or threadbare : he has often seen them acted over....often detected....often despised.

The philosopher, whose ruling propensity is the love of truth and knowledge, finds perpetual gratification in the pages of history. With pleasure he traces the streams of science from their first fountains. If his benevolent sensibilities are often pained, he is more than compensated by viewing the stupendous wheel of human affairs rolling through all ages ; and if

“ The proper study of mankind is *MAN*,”

The history of nations is the book comprehending that important science ; and without the reading of which a man must always remain a child.* History

* “ Nescire quid accidit antequam natus es, est semper esse puer.

and philosophy are auxiliaries to each other in expanding and enriching the mind. For while the former presents before us innumerable shades of character,... innumerable minds acting under the influence of innumerable propensities—while all human concerns, from those of the humble shepherd, to those of the universal monarch, there solicit our attention....negotiate for our esteem, and challenge our admiration, philosophy conducts us to some commanding eminence, and bids us take a view of the universe. There an expanse opens which no imagination can fathom : through the illimitable tracts of space we see worlds of light profusely, yet permanently planted ; their numbers are incalculable....their distances inconceivable : there we see globes rolling round us, in comparison with which our earth diminishes, as it were, to nothing. Man is then but “an atom of an atom world ;” and the generations of six thousand years, to beings of superior natures, appear like the glittering tribes of insects, which, in the morning, sport near the surface, and, ere sunset, are buried in the bosom of the troubled lake.

The philosopher, so far from envying, pities the proudest monarch ; and so far from coveting a share of his glory, can only desire him to “stand from between him and the sun.”*

History affords many considerations calculated to confirm the faith and strengthen the hopes of the christian. To say nothing of the fulfilment of scripture

* Vide in vita DIOGEN.

prophecies, concerning the ancient monarchies....concerning the Jewish and Christian churches, history in general shows that man's character, in all ages, has been uniform—that he is a depraved creature—that if he ever rises from this depraved and selfish state, it must be by other means than his own exertions. The light of history uniformly corroborates the idea that as sin and misery, so virtue and happiness are connected; so that mankind are thence able to infer the excellency of virtue and the turpitude of vice.

A careful attention to the general course of events, as related in history, will strengthen the mind in the belief in a wise, powerful, overruling, and universal providence. Whoever looks upon the workmanship of a clock, will acknowledge it to be the work of design; and so will he who observes the revolutions of the heavenly bodies, or the change of the seasons, or the mechanism of an animal body, or even the structure of any of its particular parts—as an eye or an ear. But in no part of nature is an overruling power more clearly seen than in the origin...the rise...the prosperity...the decline and fall of a nation: and, by a due attention to these things, we may discover the wisdom, justice, and goodness of divine providence.

Every member of a free, enlightened republic, should, by all means, read history. In a nation where popular opinion must be supreme arbiter, of what immense importance it is that that opinion should be corrected by wisdom and experience; otherwise the political vessel will wander wide upon tempestuous seas, and be lost among rocks and whirlpools.

The study of history is peculiarly adapted to the minds of youth. In that period of life the intellectual powers are expanding....the passions taking direction, and the character is rapidly forming. In that season of improvement, emulation, and hope, a habit of reading should be formed, and care should be taken that the taste of the mind be not vitiated nor rendered wavering, by the prevalence of any species of reading tending to render the mind flighty and capricious. Alas! how many of the days and years of youth are wasted without improvement—are utterly lost to every valuable....to every noble purpose! We seldom begin to think till we are incapable of action. The whole season of youth, in the greater number of instances, is so passed away as to draw after it an age barren of knowledge and virtue....a bleak and comfortless season of care, decrepitude, sorrow, and must we say, despair? There is such perverseness in man, that one cannot be instructed by the experience of another. Youth will not derive improvement from age, in those points most interesting and important.

Although the present design is to urge the importance of historical information, yet many of the same arguments apply with equal force to general reading. Such as have opportunity, (and that number is larger than is generally thought,) should read many things besides history.

Theological reading, which certainly should begin with the Bible, is all-important. A thorough acquaintance with religious doctrines deeply concerns the welfare of all mankind. It is astonishing to see

the ignorance of many persons on these subjects. They have, perhaps for many years, enjoyed advantages of religious instruction, but have never used them to any effect. The being and perfections of God....the immortality of the soul....an endless state of rewards and punishments....a change so amazing as that of death....the unknown realities of the coming world—in short, the immensity of God's kingdom and government....the infinitely varied works of creation, and what man is to himself as a conscious being, are objects which seem to call for the utmost exertion of all our intellectual powers. To survey....to enquire...to learn, and to know, in the midst of a world of such wonders, demands man's noblest faculties, and certainly furnishes for them the noblest employment.

But the disease of our race seems to be stupidity. Most men plod on through life, thinking only of the present. They scarcely send forward a thought into futurity, till they come upon the brink of the precipice. It is then too late, even to acquire any settled opinions, or make any preparations. A life of the most extreme thoughtlessness is closed with a few hours of gloomy, intense, ineffable anxiety and horror.

True religion, as appertaining to the mind, consists in just views and virtuous dispositions. Its genuine tendency is to lead men to the most careful discharge of the duties of life ; but does not stop here : it awakens in man a due sense of his various relations to things temporal and things eternal. It holds up to

his understanding a superior light whereby he perceives clearly that his best inheritance is in his immortal state. In firm expectation and confidence of future happiness, he is resigned to the course of providence, and waits patiently the consummation of his hopes.

The propensity prevalent in the human mind to neglect religious studies, extends itself to the neglect of all mental cultivation; and it is no uncommon thing for people to neglect their minds altogether. Among the eastern nations there are some who regard religion in the light we do law or physic; that is, as an occupation to be followed by a certain class of men. If, instead of the word *religion*, we substitute the phrase, *cultivation of the mind*, such a class may be found almost any where, even in our own country. They complain that they have no time—that they are pressed by business. How many hours in the day do they attend to business?...how do they employ their evenings?...how do they spend the sabbath. The fact is, they have too much time: it hangs, a dead weight, upon their hands: their business, except in a few extreme cases, is shorter, by several hours, than the day: their dull, insipid evenings are dozed away in a vacuity of thought. Perhaps they saunter to a neighbor's house, where their conversation is of too light, trivial, absurd a nature to admit of being specified in a serious discourse; or perhaps they fall upon some amusement for the express purpose of killing time, as some are pleased to style it: or, in other words, to pass away the evening.

Killing time! "Time," says the poet, "is the stuff that life is made of." To waste time is to squander the main ingredient of life, one of the richest of heaven's blessings. O, righteous heaven, remember it not against them in the great day of trial! lest it swell the catalogue of their crimes past all forgiveness. As for their sabbaths, instituted for the benevolent purpose of suspending servile labor, and acquiring the knowledge of their Creator, they are slept or idled away: yet these people say that they have no time to devote to the improvements of the mind. One of the most important questions a man can ask himself, is, how his time has been spent. To judge of its full import, let us consider what sensations it will excite, when, with imperative tone, it shall obtrude itself upon him in the hour of death.

The most excellent and important of all books is doubtless the Bible. It contains a glorious manifestation of God's character, perfections, and government, together with the character, duty, and obligations of men, and the only way of life and salvation. It is the felicity of the present day to possess not only this invaluable book, but to abound in religious writings, of various descriptions, calculated to strengthen the faith and cherish the virtues of the christian. Books of this nature are indispensibly necessary to a well-chosen library. They abound in discourses which will give light, comfort, and encouragement to a man, when all human sciences...even when all earthly things, however splendid and beautiful, are fading in his eye.

That species of reading, next in importance to divinity, is history. There is seen the rise and fall of states and empires. On one page is delineated the causes of their prosperity, and on another, of their decline. History represents the great concerns of nations in miniature. The picture is grand, but somewhat gloomy; and the correspondent sensations in him who examines it, if at times elevated and delightful, will not fail to be shaded over with melancholy, softened, however, by the distance, and rendered sublime by the magnificence and glory of the object. The historian, however long he walk under the embowering laurel and olive, must at length repose under the cypress shade.



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TO THE PRESENT
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Daniel Brown,	do.
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Nicholas Emmons,	Esq. Chester.

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In the 124th page, four lines from the bottom, for "Lewis IV." read *Lewis XIV.*

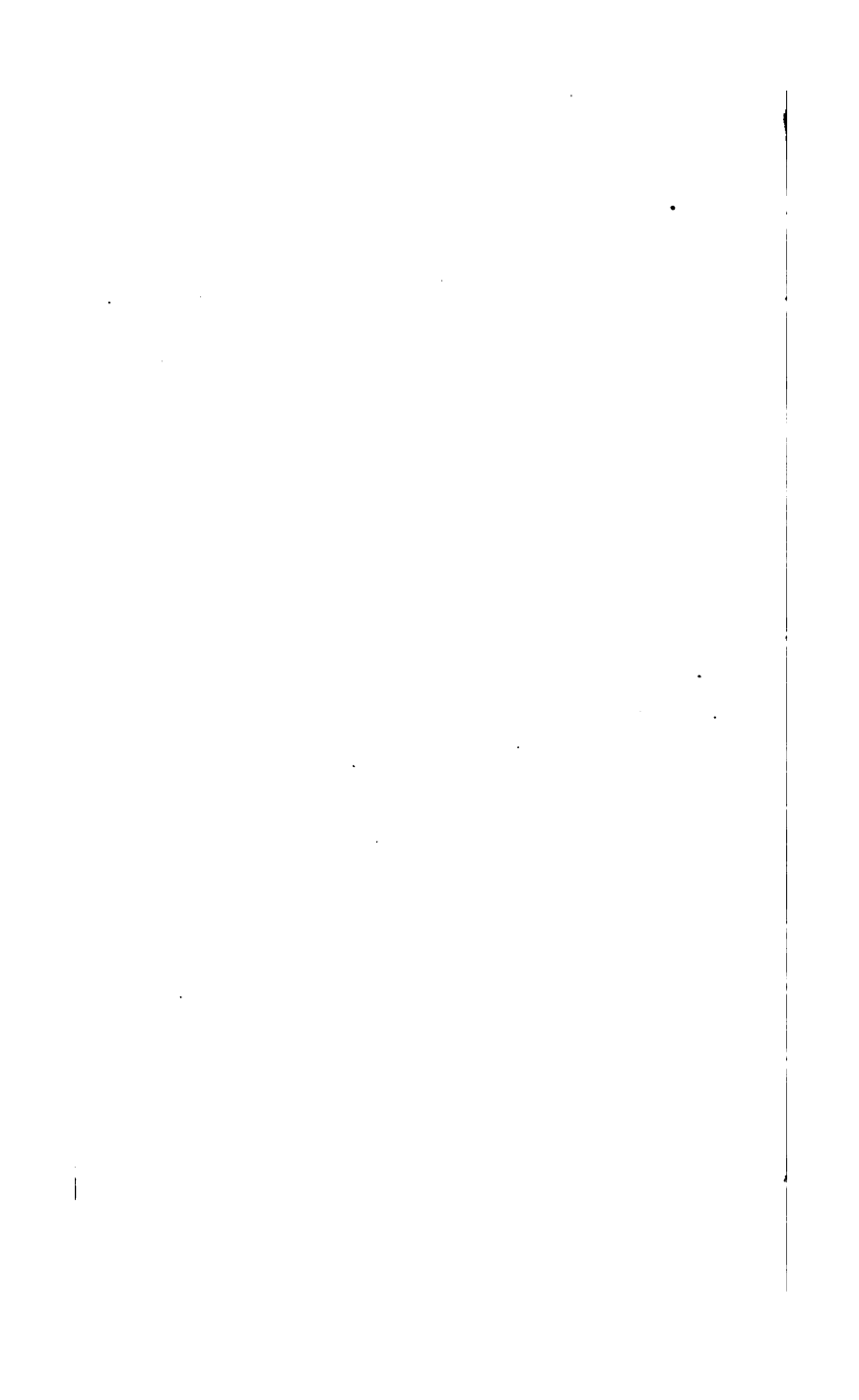


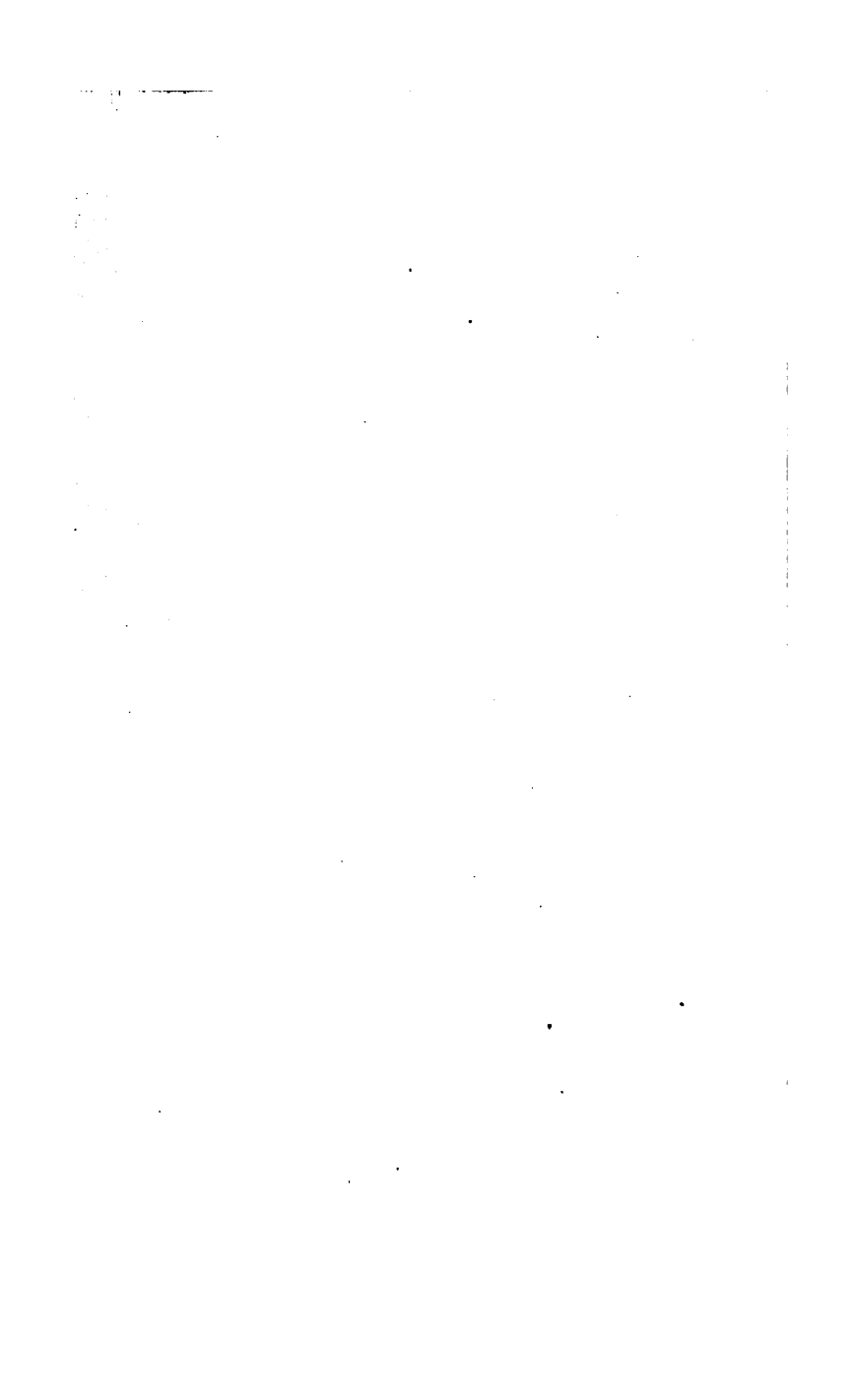
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